

M E M O I R S
OF
CHARLES TOWNLY.

[Written by HIMSELF.]

IN THREE VOLUMES.

V O L. I.

THIRD EDITION.

D U B L I N :

Printed by GEORGE GRIERSON, Parliament-Street.

1789.

point, like a pyramid ; the other, owes its beginning to people of mean degree, and encreases gradually to nobility and power ; so that the difference is, that the one was once something, and is now nothing ; and the other was once nothing but is now something !"

But however I may in my own opinion disapprove the practice I have mentioned, I find myself necessitated to comply with the general rule, as some of the circumstances thus premised will account for many particulars in my story.—My Progenitors were not a little vain of the antiquity of their houses, although no individual amongst them had ever performed any distinguished action to cast a lustre on his descendants. Mr. Frederick Townly (who to avoid confusion I shall henceforth call my father) was indeed the first person of his family who condescended to enter into trade. His father was a military man, no way remarkable in that line, who died in very indigent circumstances.—He recommended the noble profession of arms to my father with his dying breath, giving into his hands a sword, almost rusted in the scabbard, not having been drawn for thirty years, its master had commanded a company of invalids : but my father thinking the advice tended more to the establishment of his glory than of his interest, laid

laid by the sword and commenced adventurer in the mercantile line, in which he found himself extremely fortunate, and after a few years rose to be one of the most eminent traders in a great commercial city; where every day increased his opulence and respectability. Besides this son, my grandfather left another: a hot-headed romantic youth, whose brain was set madding (as my father said) by studying Homer's Battles, and the History of ancient Rome. This stripling assumed the legacy his brother had declined accepting, and declared he was determined with that weapon to hew out a subsistence, and seek for glory. He took leave of his brother, in pursuance of those purposes, who saw him depart without regret, not being overburthened with tender affections.

The Lady whom destiny ordain'd for the partner of Mr. Frederick Townly, was the daughter of Sir Gregory Bruin, Bart. who possessed a good estate in the East Riding of Yorkshire.—Besides this daughter Sir Gregory had an only son, like himself addicted to the joys of the bottle and the feats of the chace.—The reader will be much disappointed if he expects to be informed Miss Bruin was a lady of extraordinary acquirements; in truth, she was not at all entitled to such a character.

rafter. She had at a very early age lost her female parent, and was bred up in an extensive old fashioned country seat, beyond whose environs she was never permitted to emigrate.—Her governante was a woman of the name of Poplar, who had been her mother's femme de chambre, but who upon her lady's decease was promoted by the old Baronet to the rank of his chief favorite, and vested with an authority over the family more unlimited and despotic than he had ever granted to his wife. To have given Miss Bruin a good education was not in the power of Mrs. Poplar; even had it been her inclination; before her elevation to the post of waiting-woman to Lady Bruin, she had figured only in the lowest scenes of life. Her genealogy was so totally wrapt in obscurity, that it was impossible to discover who her father was, and her first appearance at Bruin Castle was made in the humble capacity of wife to the gardener's assistant: not liking the poor accommodations her husband's industry procured, she set her invention to work to obtain some establishment in the Baronet's household, and chance soon furnished her with an opportunity of attaining her wish. She was seized with a dangerous illness, and Lady Bruin who was always attentive to the distresses of the poor, had her attended and relieved her wants;

on

on her recovery she went to return thanks to her benefactress, who on hearing she wished to ease her husband of the burden of providing for her, enrolled her among her female domestics of the lower order; in this station she shewed so much docility, and such an inclination to oblige (tho' this latter quality was exerted only towards her superiors) that she was gradually raised to a higher one, and so on till at length she became the Abigail of her good Lady.

Mrs. Poplar, as I have before observed, being entirely disqualified from forming Miss Bruin's mind, attempted not the task. Sir Gregory never knew any good come of sending girls to boarding-schools, and was equally averse to the admitting a tutorefs into the family. His daughter consequently got no education at all. From seeing company (one great source of improvement to the youthful mind) she could not derive advantage, the female world, and all the polite part of the male neighbourhood, being excluded from the castle; the former because Madame La Governante always did the honors of the house, and the latter through the dislike the Baronet had for the society of men, to whom he felt himself inferior in sense and information, and whose presence would be a check upon his vulgar habits. In fine, the poor young lady attained

her eighteenth year, in a state of ignorance, simplicity, and illiterateness, scarcely credible, at that period she was a tall awkward well-meaning girl; and Mrs. Poplar suggested to the Baronet that it was high time to get her off his hands; this was no easy matter. The men of his acquaintance who were on an equality with him, had all seen her without expressing the smallest degree of liking or attachment, and to give her to one of inferior circumstances was not to be thought of, as her fortune was a good one, being the entire of the settlement made for younger children in his marriage-articles: he was quite at a loss how to proceed until his fair adviser pointed out an expedient, which was to write to his agent, a lawyer who lived in London; to look out for a proper person to be the young lady's husband.

The Lawyer thus applied to happened to be a relation of my father, and was moreover interested in his prosperity, as he was wont to oblige him sometimes in money transactions. He forthwith proposed to him an alliance with the young lady, stating all the certain, and all the probable advantages that would accrue from a union with her, and offering to exert his utmost interest in his behalf with the Baronet. He very prudently

prudently suppressed the circumstance of his having been employed to look out for a husband, as the idea of some difficulty in bringing matters to bear, would enhance the value of the obligation, and in all his proceedings he made it a rule whilst he was serving his friends to have a strict eye to his own advantage.

A prudent man always considers before he weds.—My father was a prudent man, he therefore considered the matter in every point of view, love could not warp his judgment, as he had never seen the lady, or heard of her before, his heart indeed had never felt the least symptom of la belle passion, and was therefore entirely at his own disposal, so weighing all the *pours* and *contres* he determin'd to commence Benedick, and accordingly wrote to his good friend Mr. Caveat the lawyer, expressing the gratitude he felt for the essential service he had rendered him, and agreed to marry the lady whenever her father pleased. Preliminaries were soon adjusted, and the parchments being engrossed for signing, my father and Mr. Caveat set out on their first visit to the Castle, where they met with a very cordial reception; to give a uniform conclusion to the business the Parson was summoned with a licence,

and the nuptials solemnized the day after their arrival.

For a little time after my mother took possession of her own house, she seemed to have got into a new world where every thing was strange and wonderful to her. She was puzzled how to conduct herself on the most ordinary occasions, and lived in a continual state of embarrassment. But the effects of novelty soon wore off, her curiosity and her admiration subsided and she relapsed into her former indifference. The ladies of the place visited, remarked and despised her, far from cultivating their intimacy, she disliked and shunned them. Their language, their manners, their opinions were all beyond her comprehension, and she preferred sitting alone to the society of woman, in whose presence she always felt awkward and uneasy. Her husband treated her with an indifference bordering upon contempt; seldom saw her except at such hours as he could not avoid it, and then only to find fault with every thing she said or did, unless there were company present, on which occasions he had the politeness always to veil his feelings in apparent softness and complacency, by which conduct he got all the world on his side—the men pitied him for being yok'd with an unsuitable mate, and the ladies

agreed

agreed he had vast merit for behaving so very prettily to such a stupid disagreeable creature.— From her own family connections my mother could derive no comfort, and her uncultivated mind, rendered her very unfit to pass a solitary life; thus cheerless and unsocial she dragg'd on a heavy existence, unloving and unbeloved, excluded from all pleasure, and an innocent victim to the follies and the crimes of others.

C H A P. II.

The same Subject continued.

BESIDES my mother's want of attractions, her husband had another reason for disliking her. Many years had elapsed since their ill-omen'd wedding, without their having any offspring, which gave him no small share of disquiet. He was a man who knew the value of money to the nicest exactness, and had been accustomed to the calculation of all possible contingent profits and advantages, so he not only regretted the want of a child to inherit his own possessions, but also to be heir to the estate in his wife's family; as it was very probable her brother never wou'd marry, he having been remarkable from early youth for a violent antipathy to the fair sex, especially those of amiable dispositions and accomplished manners, insomuch that he avoided every place in which there was any likelihood of meeting ladies, nor did he seem less averse to the company of gentlemen, his chief friends and favorites being selected from the rational (or to speak with more precision) the two-leg'd animals who superintended the dog-kennel and the stable.

My

My father's heart was not softened by this unlucky circumstance, but his vexation was greatly encreased in the sixth year of his matrimonial infelicity, at which time my grandfather was gathered to his ancestors, and died without leaving his daughter or son-in-law, any legacy whatever: He had always promised to make a considerable addition to the fortune he had given at the marriage on the birth of a grandson, but as the old gentleman's hope of beholding a descendant was disappointed, he bequeatheth every thing in his power to Mrs. Poplar; altho' that lady's services had been tolerably recompenced before his death, by a lease he had made to her of a good house and valuable piece of land in the vicinity of the castle.—She too (according to the example of many wise ministers of finance) had taken care to make the most of her employment while it lasted, and though the household all agreed that the expenditures were in no wise adequate to the sums granted by the Baronet for subsistence, no one dare cavil at or question her disbursements, through dread of forfeiting his place.

Every body pitied my father for the baronet's foolish and unjust disposal of his effects, “poor Mr. Townly, what a horrid disappointment (said the

the ladies) the least he could have had, was a plentiful share of the old savage's money, to compensate for his being thrown away upon the daughter."—No one pitied my mother, although this event opened new scenes of persecution for her:—My father never had a tender heart to her, and disappointment seldom enlarges a man's benevolence, or mends his temper; tho' he was an equal sufferer in the deprivation of this his favorite object; he treated her as a culprit who had designedly done him an injury, morose and sour in his deportment at home, whilst abroad his address was gentle and pleasing to all, his behaviour was such as would have made a woman of sensibility feel life a burden. My mother happily for herself was not a woman of sensibility. —She had very obtuse feelings and no idea of refinement, consequently though her state was disagreeable to her, she felt less than perhaps any other woman in the world would have done, in such a situation.

Three years from the death of the baronet had now lag'd on with torpid wings, during which my father made many trips to London, and one excursion to the Continent; whilst he was absent upon the last of these expeditions, my mother to the general surprize of all their acquaintance,

quaintance, declared herself pregnant. An event so ardently wish'd, so bitterly despaired of, made a great revolution in the state of affairs, my father returned home the moment the intelligence was announced to him. My mother's consequence encreased with her encreasing size, and she became an object of care and importance, at a time when she had grown almost callous to neglect and unkindness.—At this crisis a very considerable house on the Continent, with which my father had extensive commercial concerns stopp'd payment, his presence there became absolutely necessary, and he was obliged to abandon the care of his wife, and future heir to others.—During his stay abroad I was born, and when I was presented to him on his return, he expressed a joy and satisfaction suitable to the occasion. My uncle, the young baronet, now lord of the castle, was invited to stand sponsor, and I was baptised by the name of Charles, which was his, merely in respect to him, as my father declared on the day of the christening.

C H A P. III.

*Entrance at the University.—Progress there.—
Character of Mr. Prig, with some Remarks on
Education.*

I Will not enter upon a detail of my boyish days, in which I played at rackets, clambered for bird's-nests, and robbed orchards, like the rest of my cotemporaries, at the age of sixteen, I was a well-grown giddy idle boy, with great spirits and strong sensibility. Among my companions I bore the character of a good-natured well-tempered fellow.—I had gone through the usual course of learning at a public school, without gaining much information; for my private tutor made all my exercises; and I was pronounced fit to enter the University, when, in simple verity, I should have been remanded to a middling class.

To College I was accordingly sent! where I made just such a figure as my acquirements predicted.—Prize after prize was given,—but not to me,—the examiners frowned, my tutor raved to no purpose, I could not comprehend the beauties

ties of Homer or Virgil; whilst it puzzled me to construe a page in their works. Nor turn a brain to logical definitions which had never been accustomed to think at all.—What was to be done?—Education was indispensably necessary for one who was to be the representative of two considerable families, and heir to a large paternal fortune, besides the great estate of his uncle: But how was it to be obtained when nature had not endued his mind with talents for the acquirement of knowledge?—thus was the matter stated by my father to Mr. Prig, the curate, who was one of his intimates; Mr. Prig entered deeply into his concern, lamented the disqualifications under which I laboured, and advised him to recall me from college directly, and that he would examine me carefully. “Between you and me, Mr. Townly (said he) I have known many who have made but a poor figure at the University, go through life extremely well; and though such men were incapable of becoming senators, or orators, or philosophers, they made very tolerable citizens and country gentlemen.”—“But, dear Sir, (returned my father) this is a particular case, the fortune to which Charles will succeed, must entitle him to the most elevated prospects, if his genius bears any proportion to his pretensions, many men from beginnings very inferior
to

to his, have risen to the highest ranks and offices in the state. I would then give any consideration to render him a man of liberal, and literary information, the want of which will be an insuperable bar to his advancement."—

"Well, then, (said Mr. Prig) there is but one way,—send him to travel, it will be the best method of stimulating his intellects to unfold themselves, I myself will forego all my prospects of Church preferment to devote myself to the service of your family. I will attend him whilst he is performing the tour of Europe, and at the same time, make him go through a regular course of reading under my direction,"

My father, who was more certain of Mr. Prig's skill in the game of whist, than of his literary abilities, did not meet this kind offer with an eagerness suitable to that with which it was made; he had never heard that gentlemen dive deeper than the surface of any subject talk'd off in company, and if his expectation of ecclesiastical promotion was founded on the excellence of his preaching, he thought he stood but a dull chance. Such an expectation (in reality) existed not in the brain of Mr. Prig. He had no patron, and knew the world too well to hope for preferment without one; he only spoke of it, to convey

vey an idea of his importance, and the strength of his friendship, which induced him to sacrifice all considerations of self-interest in his ardor, to do my father a service. It was a flourish; and my father set it down as such within the book and volume of his brain, but although he justly estimated Mr. Prig's sincerity, he did not properly rate his abilities and qualifications; for that gentleman when a servitor at college, had applied himself closely to the study of literature; and having since that period, been literally obliged to live by his wits, was far from being ignorant of books or men. The superficial knowledge, my father had remarked, was more affected than real; he had studied the art of pleasing systematically, and although the works of Lord Chesterfield were not then published, he had found out, that it is not by shining in conversation ourselves, but by permitting others to shine, we obtain their good graces; for this reason he took especial care never to seem so well informed on any subject, as he pretended to think those he conversed with were; and suppressed the thirst of idle admiration, to insure more solid advantages in the regards of his friends. He was always humbly of opinion with the richest or the most powerful person in company, on any disputed point referred to him for decision; taking

ing occasion at the same time to observe, he had never heard stronger arguments than had been adduced on the opposite side. He never contradicted, he never asserted, he was ever open to conviction, and spoke well of every body to those who were likely to repeat to them he had done so, he literally made a friend of the mammon of unrighteousness, his regards being warm to the prosperous, and cold to the unfortunate, and ever proportioned in degree to their pecuniary worth. By an invariable adherence to this conduct, and a strict observance of *les petites* attentions, he had gained the character of a sensible well-informed polite man, and was much respected in the beau monde of the place. The frequency of his engagements left him but little time for composing sermons, neither was he anxious of bearing away the palm of pulpit oratory from the rector, with whom he was on the very best terms, and dined twice a week. He thought it enough to give a sermon, no matter whether good or bad, as the congregation very frequently, was made up of sleepy aldermen, deaf dowagers, traders more intent upon profit than devotion, and gigglers too inattentive to think of any thing.

Such was Mr. Prig, who with the quickness of acute discernment instantly fathomed the motives

tives of my father's hesitation, deeply as they were hid, and as instantly fell upon the most speedy method of obviating them, which was the display of his knowledge, in the branch of employment he wished to obtain.

" It is needless, Mr. Townly (said he) to observe to a man of your discernment and knowledge of the world, that the higher a young man's rank is in our Universities, and the more important those stations are to which, by this eminence he is entitled; the greater is his liberty to take his fill of idleness and dissipation. It is not unfrequent, for self-interested tutors, to cultivate the future favor of their opulent pupils, by never thwarting their inclinations. * Scarcely do the sons of the wealthy, or the powerful, ever get equal advantages of education, to their inferiors: their misdemeanors being wink'd at, and their insufficiencies palliated. For my part, I think there is no obligation under heaven more sacred than the acquitting the trust delegated by a parent to a preceptor. The most unremitted assiduity, the strictest attention, must be joined with strong abilities, and liberal information, to qualify a man for such a task. I am perhaps too

* Vide Estimate of Principles and Manners, from which Mr. Prig's positions seem to be taken.

precise and scrupulous in my notions on this point, but to say what I really think, I have never seen any person act in this sphere according to my ideas of rectitude and propriety.

“ A knowledge of books, a taste in arts, and a proficiency in science, should be the qualifications of a man of fashion, and these are what you wish your son to attain; you would not bewilder him in the pedantry of schools, nor ‘ plunge him in venerable tomes,’ (as Young says) but give him learning united with elegance, and polish his manners whilst you enlighten his understanding. Now this desirable end can never be so well, nor so readily obtained, by any method, as by the young gentlemen reading one part of the day under the direction of a person of polite erudition, and then devoting the remaining hours to the study of mankind in the great school of the world, examining customs and manners in their infinite modes and forms, in different nations, and comparing sentiments and opinions in all their agreements and oppositions, under the guidance of a skilful preceptor, who will instruct him to throw away the weeds and select the flowers.”

Here

Here Mr. Prig paused, expecting my father to express his approbation of the scheme thus elaborately delineated, but my father remained silent. Had an architect whom he employed to draw a plan for building a house, presented him with one in which was proposed the raising of the superstructure before the foundation was laid, he could not have felt more disappointment. He very wisely considered that there was some truth in the adage, which says, 'to do things well we must do but one at a time.' He easily perceived a medley of study and dissipation tended more to make a man volatile than solid, and thought Mr. Prig's system, like Penelope's web, as the labours of the morning would be constantly destroyed in the evening. He was moreover no friend to the sending boys to travel, having often been fretted at the farcicalness he heard thrown out against bear cubs and their leaders, by our polite neighbours of the Continent, and observing both the one and the other, whilst making the tour, seemed more intent on exposing native folly, than gleaming up foreign wisdom.

Mr. Prig entirely mistook the cause of this silence, and imagining my father was only balancing the matter, proceeded to throw still more weight into the scale he wished should preponde-

rate.

rate. " You see Mr. Townly (said he) I have entered into your views, and that our judgments in this matter perfectly agree. Your son is peculiarly fortunate in having a parent who considers the system of education on an extensive scale, and has spirit to insure his future advantages, by quitting the ordinary narrow bounds. It will be merely the fault of nature if he does not rise, as you bestow every aid on the abilities with which she has furnished him, and give his mental powers fair play. What numbers we behold placed in wrong situations, by the vulgar error of considering convenience in the destination of boys, without paying the least regard to their peculiar bent of genius?—how many who do no credit to the profession in which they are placed by the fiat of their parents or guardians (pronounced before it can possibly be known what they are fit for) might shine in different ones, with honor to themselves and benefit to the public?—The common practice is to make choice of a profession, and then send a lad to the University to qualify himself for that profession merely, without examining if his talents render him fitter for any other. And hence we meet with Commanders who would much rather loll on pulpit cushions, than lead their troops to the field; Physicians who are better qualified to

harangue

harangue on the political constitutions of Europe, than on the particular ones of their patients, and Prelates more prone to discuss points of law than points of divinity."

The entrance of some company put an end to Mr. Prig's discourse, and relieved my father from a very disagreeable state of embarrassment, as he neither wished to declare his acceptance or rejection of the advice so generously bestow'd. However, in pursuance of his own determination, he set out for Oxford the next morning, to bring me away from the University. Which step Mr. Prig attributed to the force of his arguments, and rested satisfied that the remainder of the plan he had suggested would follow in due course.

CHAP. IV.

The Author quits the University.—An unexpected Wedding.—Sketch of the Bride's History.—Disappointment of well calculated Schemes.

HAD not my father been very tenaciously attached to his own opinion he must of necessity have changed it on his arrival at Oxford, so many and so strong were the arguments adduced to persuade him to continue me there. My tutor acknowledged I had made no progress, but said it was only idleness, not want of abilities had caused my backwardness, could I once be induced to apply to my studies there was nothing but what I would be equal to, and he did not despair, seeing my natural talents were great, and my dispositions excellent; but alas, he had to do with a man who always judged for himself; therefore though these assertions were corroborated by the evidence of the great logician, Doctor Drowsy of Brazen-Nose-College, and Doctor Quizz, the noted linguist, of Pembroke; they made no sort of alteration in his purpose, and we left Oxford in two days after that on which he arrived.

My

My regret at quitting the University was by far the most uneasy sensation I ever had experienced. I had many intimacies among my fellow students and was enrol'd a member of a musical society, who had performed several concerts with great applause ; besides these advantages, I had the good fortune of being particularly distinguished among the ladies. Miss Caroline Frizle, the heiress of an eminent barber, a young lady of taste and sentiment, who talked very prettily on friendship and platonism and the beauties of the mind, shewed an evident partiality in my favour, which had been much spoke of and envied. But this unexpected resolution of my father's, at once put an end to my amusements and my triumph.

Our journey home was not a very agreeable one. My father was extremely displeased with me, and amused himself with repeating his chagrin the whole way. "A fine hand you have made of it Sir (said he) a pretty figure you are likely to make in the world. Surely your mother's d—nd stupidity must be entail'd upon you, or you never could be blind to the disadvantages your folly and negligence must lay you under, but I'll put things to a short issue, the moment we arrive at home I'll write to your uncle to consult him on the course I intend to take with you, and according as he determines, you shall be disposed of."

Now my uncle the Baronet, whom I have already justly characterized ; was the most improper person in the world to be consulted in a matter of this sort : and my father had too much sagacity not to be convinced he was so, but having an eye to interest in this as in every other transaction, he had all along affected a deference for his opinion, he was far from feeling, and had invariably seemed to consider my uncle as much concerned in me as he himself was, thus artfully accustoming him to look upon me as his successor and first object, without betraying the least implication of the nature of his views.

But alas ! how short is human foresight, how unavailing is human prudence. A letter from Bruin Castle which was presented to him immediately on our arrival, made a total alteration in his arrangements, and rendered the intended application wholly unnecessary. As no narrative can do justice to this epistle, I shall insert it verbatim.

Frederick

Frederick Townly, Esq;

Deer Sur and Brudther,

“ As manny dubbles fall out in a long chase, this cums to lett you know as how I have taken an odd maggot in head, and gotten a woife. Mayhap you'll not think this a wise pursceeding, butt ' nay more, ' to haul him Horace saw Pitt,' as the old Latin song says; besides I considered t'was as good lave my estait to a lawfully begotten natural sun of mine own as to give it to nevue, who will be fit for nothing in the varsal world but to be made a parson, having his noddle stuffed with larning; so being no minor, I have chofen for myself, as a british freeholder should do, and married the grand otter of Mrs. Poplar. I hope this will plays you and sifter, both which I shall be glad to see at the castle when occasion offurs. You will alwais foind a fat hanch, a magnam boneum of good old port, and a hearty well come from

Your friend and kings man,

Charles Bruin.”

This was a blow as unexpected by my father's discernment, as it was fatal to his designs. My new aunt brought no encrease of honors to the family stock. Her mother was the only daughter of Mrs. Poplar, and her husband the gardener's assistant. This daughter (who led rather a disagreeable life on account of the uncommon severity of her mother's temper) unmindful of her descent and expectations, and instigated by the little blind god who is often accused of leading folks astray, ran away at the age of seventeen, with a son of Mars, vulgarly y'clept a recruiting serjeant, who at that period was beating up for volunteers to serve his Majesty, at a village in the vicinity of the castle, where Miss Poplar then resided with her mother, who e'er that time had become lady Paramount. Mrs. Poplar mortified and incensed that a child of hers should make such a misalliance, refused her blessing and protection to the young couple, who in consequence of her obduracy were obliged to partake the fortunes of the regiment to which the serjeant belonged, in America, where after fighting many campaigns, and experiencing a variety of disagreeable vicissitudes, the poor hero was shot through the head; and his wife with an infant girl in her arms, beg'd her way through an enemy's country, till at length she was conveyed to
 England,

England, by the charitable subscription of some generous veterans, who commiserated her forlorn condition.

On her arrival she found herself more friendless in her native land, than she had been in a foreign one. To her mother she did not apply, despairing of forgiveness from a temper she knew to be implacable : she told her distressful tale to many,—nobody minded it. Some had objects enough to relieve in whom they were interested, some never minded hackneyed tales which were easily trumped up to impose on the credulous and charitable. Many bade her go to service and earn a subsistence for herself and her bantling, and when she pleaded that her exhausted frame, and broken constitution were unequal to such an undertaking, they told her an hospital was the fittest place for her. Often would she look upon her innocent child and burst into tears of anguish and tenderness. The feelings of sentiment are sometimes strong in minds that are strangers to refinement, they were so in this instance, and it hastened the unhappy victim of distress to her grave.

Mrs. Poplar, whose resentment against her daughter had been relentless whilst she wanted her assistance, no sooner heard that death had relieved her

her from all her necessities, than she felt all her natural tenderness revive. She was inconsolable for the loss of her dear and only child, but as that was an irremediable evil, she resolved to confer to the little orphan she had left, all her care and bounty. She accordingly placed her at an eminent convent in Paris, where she had her instructed in every polite accomplishment by the best masters, and when her education was perfected, recalled her to England and took her to reside under her own care, in the house my grandfather had given her a lease of, near the castle. In this retreat it was the fortune of the girl to attract the notice of my uncle, the Baronet, insomuch that she became a temporary rival to his dogs and his horses. Not in the smallest degree elated with what Mrs. Poplar deemed an important conquest, the young lady studiously shunned her admirer, and discouraged his addresses, which induced him to call in her grandmother's authority in aid of his passion. The vanity of Mrs. Poplar was excited, and the girl's objections were not attended to. The Baronet's proposals were generous, he offered a jointure of 2000l. per annum. This advantage was too dazzling to be rejected, and Mrs. Poplar saw her descendant established in that mansion, where she herself had experienced such remarkable changes of fortune.

To

To describe my father's vexation on receiving this intelligence is impossible. When he reflected that the golden calf to whom he had offered incense so many years, had thus crushed his full-blown hopes, that the sacrifice of his feelings was to no purpose, and all his adulation and high wrought schemes were thus thrown away: his equanimity was entirely put to flight, however as he was wont to do on all occasions, he carried his disappointment off with a good face to the world: but his dependants, particularly my mother and myself, felt the full effects of his chagrin. Eager as he had been for offspring; his regard for me had never been cordial; he apparently considered me as the instrument which was to unite a great fortune to the one he possessed and transmit an opulent property with his name to a race of descendants; this expectation was now frustrated, and his coldness towards me encreased in a rapid degree, inasmuch that home became extremely disagreeable to me.

CHAP. V.

New Resolutions.

THE probability of my becoming a senator and ambassador, or a premier, being by this event rendered more distant and precarious than before, the necessity of giving me an extraordinary education was in a great measure removed. My father considered this, and accordingly, calling me one morning into his closet, he addressed me in the following terms. “ Charles, you are now entered upon a season of life that requires manly sense, and it is with regret I see only boyish folly in your conduct. You are inattentive, idle and dissipated; a few superficial accomplishments constitute the whole of your acquirements. Your excellence in music might be of use to you if an orchestra was to be your destination, and your fine dancing may make a great figure in a theatre; but let me if possible force you to open your eyes to your own good, before it is too late, to pursue it with effect, and in order to quicken your apprehension, I must premise to you that you never shall touch a shilling of my property during my life, unless
you

you study to deserve my favour ; I am not one of those weak parents who can see no defect in their own offspring, on the contrary, your imperfections will find a rigid judge in me, nor will I ever after this time interfere in your actions, otherwise than to punish your faults with steadiness, or reward your merits according to the dictates of unbiass'd justice."

Stung to the heart by his words, I threw myself at his feet, and bursting into tears, exclaimed, " dear Sir, I own my faults, I acknowledge my negligence, punish, but pity, and do not hate me !"

" Rise Sir (said he) I am pleased to discern some indications of sensibility in your behaviour ; I feared your mother's disposition had been inherent."

" Oh ! Sir (cried I) I will be all you can wish. From this moment I will devote my whole time to study, and redeem if possible the hours I have lost.

" It behoves you to do so (said my father coolly) the fine step of the blockhead your uncle has clipt your wings pretty close, and you must

now endeavour to rise as well as you can, for I again assure you, I will not injure my property or straighten my own expences to support you in idleness and extravagance."

"Point out the course you wish me to pursue, Sir (said I) and I will with unremitting diligence,—"

"You promise well, Sir (interrupted he) but actions not words, must be the test of your sincerity. I have resolved upon a plan, on which you are immediately to enter. I have written to my friend, Mr. Caveat, in London, to receive you as a boarder in his house. You shall there be attended by all those who are necessary to finish your education,—to finish, did I say! rather to begin it."

"Oh Sir (cried I) spare me, and if it is not too much favour to be granted, suffer me to remain in your house, and under your own eye pursue a conduct, that—"

Pish (interrupted he peevishly) no nonsense Boy, all matters are disposed for your journey, and in two hours hence, you set out: go acquaint your mother with my purpose. She knows not of it yet.—Do you hear Sir?—begone.
Finding

Finding it vain to expostulate, and overwhelm'd with unutterable feelings, I bow'd, and quitted his presence; in spite of the little countenance he had ever given me I revered and loved him, and I determined firmly, to do every thing in my power to deserve his favor and affection.

My mother did not seem surprized on hearing of my father's determination, she had been accustomed to submit implicitly to his decrees, and received this fiat without emotion. She bid me be sure to keep myself from heats and colds, not to stay out late of nights, and putting the contents of her purse into my hand, kiss'd me, and bid me adieu.

C H A P. VI.

A journey.—Adventures at an inn.—The Author arrives in London.—Sketch of Mr. Caveat's family.

BEHOLD me now driven from my paternal home, to enter on a new scene, a strangely chequered one as it proved. Sure providence in pity to mankind has thrown a veil over future events; else human fortitude would sink under an accumulated view of the misfortunes we encounter in the course of life. I had proceeded some miles upon my journey before I was capable of calm reflection, and it was not till I reached the inn at my first stage, that I recovered my wonted state of mind, as I was to pass the night there, I took possession of an apartment, and leaving to Morton, a confidential servant of my father's (who was the companion of my journey) the care of giving necessary directions, I shut myself up to indulge my meditations at leisure.

My father's behaviour had made a deep and painful impression on my mind. And yet such is the volatile disposition of youth, that the expectation of
seeing

seeing a city of whose magnificence and pleasures I had formed a very high idea, mingled a degree of satisfaction with my uneasiness. What a complicated creature is man, how mixed his sensations, how undefinable his feelings? but in youth especially the heart revolts from grief, and seizes with avidity on every dawn of cheerfulness. It is a comfortable propensity, and happy it were for us, if it accompanied us through life. But alas! too soon we discern the falacy of pleasure, the vanity of expectation, and the futility of the pursuits in which we are interested. The enchantment vanishes, and the poor traveler who fancied himself surrounded with blooming gardens and glittering palaces, awakes, and finds himself in a dreary desert. But to return, the moon shone brightly in at the windows, and I know not to what length I might have carried my reverie, only it was interrupted by a violent uproar in the passage leading to my apartment. I arose to enquire the cause, but before I could reach the door, it was burst in by a most tremendous tall figure, in an old faded regimental coat, a huge pair of dirty boots, and a fierce cocked hat of enormous size. He brandished a long sword aloft, whilst he seiz'd me by the collar, and roared out,—“Where's the wife in my bosom you scoundrel? restore her to me before she is lost, or by the staff of St. Patrick,

Patrick, I'll send you to kingdom come before you stir off this spot." I endeavoured to disengage myself, but he held fast and proceeded,—“ Why you dog, did not you inveigle the sweet creature's affections from me who never could gain them? could you find nobody else to play your pranks upon but a jantleman officer, who fought all the days of his life for his king and his country?—Yes, neighbours, (said he, turning to the croud his noise had collected from all parts of the house) this whipper snapper has blasted my *lauriels* I brought from America, I who received no less than six *martial* wounds in this very coat and hat you see on my back.” The interference of the spectators now becoming seriously necessary, I was at length rescued from my disgraceful situation, by the landlord who was also a military man, being a corporal of militia. “ Shame on't captain as thou cal'st thyself (said he to my antagonist) art thou not a craven to fall upon this here strippling, odds bobs if you be for vighting there are men enough to be had.”

“ Husband, husband (cried a shrill voiced female, popping her head over the shoulder of a man in sailors dress) its a burning shame for you, so it is, to be a harbinger of evil persons, as Mr. Methodical, the preacher says.”

“ D—n

"D—n it woman (returned the landlord) wou'd you ha me turn parson and cathechise the guests as they come, what is it to us what any man does, so he pays his reckoning."

"Fine talking (said the landlady) but the thing is as plain as the nose in my face, you take part with that there young reprobate, because you are birds of a feather, but—"

"Split my mizen (interrupted the seaman) but the women are always on one side of the question in such like busineses, although they can chop and change like a shifting gale on any other point of the compass."

"Indeed, Mr. Weathercock (cried the incensed landlady) marry come up. What shou'd a sea hog like you know of the matter that you shou'd have the face to take upon you to meddle in business that don't concern you?"

"Do you hear, Bet (said the landlord, clenching his hand) don't provoke me; let's have no jaw, but go and mind your business, or—"

"Avast brother (interrupted the sailor) avast, I'm too well us'd to foul weather to heed her rumb-
ling.

ling. Smite my timbers, I've stood to many broadsides to be frightened by such a crazy frigate."

" Crazy (cried the landlord) crazy in your teeth, firrah, no more a crazy fidget than the mother that bore you. Husband if you had the spirit of a flea, yon wou'd not stand by and see me assaulted by this dirty tar-barrel."

The Irishman whose cause she had endeavored to support, now thinking himself bound in justice and generosity to interfere in aid of the fair one, who had entered the list for him; flew upon the seaman like a tyger, but the seaman who happened to be extremely expert in gymnastic exercises, gave him a very warm reception. The landlord incensed at this new uproar, vented his anger on his wife, whom he fell to belaboring with all his might, whilst she on her part claw'd, skreamed and scolded; her shrill voice serving as a trumpet to animate the battle, which now raged with inconceivable fury. Not Achilles, nor Ajax, nor Hector, nor any other of Homer's heroes ever were more intent on annoying their respective foes, or maintained a more obstinate warfare than did our combatants. As when the athleta of the street, vulgarly called coal-porters, or the turbulent naaides of Fleet-ditch

ditch fling down their burdens, or cast away their baskets to urge an affray. Windows, broken walls and tops of houses are crouded with spectators, all interested in the issue of the combat, so from the dormitories of Olympus look'd down the deities, male and female, and wonder'd, and applauded by turns. Victory hovered alternately over each combatant, doubtful where to bestow the laurel, till fortune ever capricious in her decisions, snatch'd it from her hesitating hand, and dropt it plump upon the head of the son of Neptune. The discomfited Hibernian warrior was driven off the field, spight of his prowess ; which catastrophe being perceived by the landlord, he ceased to urge his triumph over his prostrate wife, so bidding her in the D—ls name go mind her house affairs, he march'd off without taking the least notice of me.—The crowd followed his example, bearing off the vanquished landlady, who was, or pretended to be unable to rise, and tranquility was one more re-established thro' the mansion.

By this time, the servant who was by my father's appointment my travelling companion, made his appearance and expressed his concern at his having been absent on a visit to some friends in the town, at the time I was attacked so violently.

“ But

“ But are you sure you do not know the person who assaulted you, Sir, (said he) for as I walked thro’ the street to my friends house, I met him, and he asked me if you was not lately come from the University of Oxford, and on my answering in the affirmative, he said he had some particular business with you.” I demanded why Morton had not directly informed me of this circumstance, and he replied, not having imagined immediate information necessary, he had postponed acquainting me ’till his return. I was satisfied with this excuse, and dismissing him for the night, retired to rest.

On awaking the next morning I was presented with a billet from my unknown antagonist, the contents of which were as follows:

To the Jantleman Stranger.

“ Upon my soul my dear Sir, I am hartily consarned for the freedom I tuck wid your parson last night, but I tuck you for a scoundrel, and chastised you for the same.—I was tould you was an Oxford Cantab, and my wife having the misfortune to go off wid a young fellow of dat profession in my absence, when I was not present, I thought I had fixt the saddle on the rite horse, but it so fell out that I fell into the wrong box,
for

for upon my coming back to my own hot-hell who should I find but my fray sheep and her cocks comical gallant just landed from a tim whisky, as high as one of the castles of Killmallock. I seizes my gentleman by the collar, and I believe I beat him for once without doing it by proxy, upon which what wou'd you have of it honey, he takes to his scrapers, and scour'd off like a yanky grenadier, so then I took madam and lock'd her up in a room out of which she shall never stir till I have her safe and sound at home in sweet Ireland. This is the upshot of the matter, and as to the little difference I had wid you about nothing at all, I thought it wou'd be only doing the genteel thing to assure you I am innocent of the mistake ; but if this is not enough, I am too much of a jantleman to refuse you civil fatisfaction, and will meet you with sword or pistol or both or if you'd rather, at any place and time you appoint where you shall have honorable amends from

your well wisher,

and obliged friend till death,

Pbelim Mc Cannon.

Having

Having no desire for the honorable satisfaction proposed by my friend Mr. Mc Cannon, I pursued my journey, and without meeting any other adventure, arrived in due time at Mr. Caveat's house in Lincoln's-Inn Fields.

Mr. Caveat who has already been introduced to the reader as the instigator and contriver of my Father's marriage, was now arrived at the 55th year of his age; whether he had been too much engrossed by his parchments and briefs to think of the Ladies, or had taken warning by the unsatisfactory issue of the match he had made for his friend, he had escaped the hymeneal noose, and was now a prim batchelor, and avowed enemy to matrimony. His household consisted of a maiden lady his sister, pretty near, if not on the wrong side of fifty; very formal in her manners, and of a most forbidding aspect. A very pretty girl of seventeen, daughter of his deceased brother, and his presumptive heiress. And three servants. I was received in this mansion with much cordiality, Mr. Caveat's jokes, his sister's good sense, and the young lady's politeness were all extremely engaging, and before I retired for the night, such was their apparent desire of pleasing, that I was perfectly reconciled to my change of situation.

C H A P.

C H A P. VII.

The History moves slowly on.—Mr. Prosody and Mr. Tropic introduced to the Reader.—Comparison between the Ancients and Moderns, with other Things the Reader may discover.

THE next morning after breakfast, Mr. Caveat informed me that masters had been engaged by my father's direction, to attend every morning to instruct me in languages and sciences, but that the professors of music, dancing and drawing were inadmissible. Nay, pursued he, my instructions are to restrain you from the practice of all that might divert your attention from his main object, which is to make you a man of general information with some share of erudition. I know not what line of life he intends you for, but this is the rough draught he has given me of his plan, and I hope you will conform to his views, without obliging me to exert the authority he has vested in my hands, of which I must endeavour to quit myself as a faithful trustee.

Don't be cast down young gentleman (said Miss Caveat, perceiving it was with difficulty I restrained a tear) I will venture to guarantee that my

my brother will use the powers delegated to him, discreetly and wisely.

Sister (said Mr. Caveat) we are not now at a congress, so need not speak like plenipotentiaries, but of this Mr. Charles, you may be assured, that I will make things as agreeable to you as I can, at the same time that I adhere strictly to the letter of my instruction; so that it will be your own fault if matters do not turn out to your liking.

I repeated to him a similar assurance with that I had given to my father, and was proceeding in my discourse, when a servant brought in a letter for Mr. Caveat which the postman had just left.

Mr. Caveat deliberately drew forth his spectacles, remarked that the hinge of its case wanted mending, took out his tablets and made a memorandum of it; and then wiping the glasses carefully, placed them firmly on his nose, and then proceeded to examine the direction and seal of the letter.

Well uncle (said Miss Letitia, who had fastened her netting to the back of my chair) were I to get the world for restraining of my curiosity. I could not so long refrain from opening a letter of mine.

So

So much the worse for you niece, (returned Mr. Caveat) your curiosity may bring you into a premunire sometime or other. I'll give you a case in point on which a great suit is now depending. A letter directed to *A.* was given through mistake of *B.* to *C.* said letter enclosing draughts or bills to a considerable amount, *C.* expecting a remittance from *D.* his agent, never waited to examine.

A loud rap announcing the approach of company stopt my Guardian (as I may stile Mr. Caveat) in his career. Mr. Profody was named and immediately admitted. Mr. Profody had the pedagogue so visibly depicted in his countenance and deportment, that it was needless to enquire his profession. Mr. Caveat introduced me to him, and after a proper harangue, left us together, to enter upon our employment. So Sir, you have been at Oxford (said he) hum. I answered in the affirmative. You went there very ignorant. I bowed,—and you returned *semper eadem*. I bowed again.—I am not all surprized at that (said he, flourishing his hand and scattering a part of the snuff he held between his finger and thumb) whilst Bacchus and Venus are the deities of our learned seminaries, Apollo and Minerva may go whistle; You have heard of the Lyceum, the Acadamy, no doubt? Yes
Sir.

Sir. And do you think the sages who taught them bore any resemblance to the fellows of Cambridge and Oxford? I really cannot tell Sir. You are very ignorant, young gentleman (said he) very ignorant indeed.

After this declaration, he proceeded to examine me in the Greek and Latin languages. My pride had been aroused by his exordium, and I took such pains to acquit myself well, that he condescended to pronounce some degree of approbation, which amounted to an assertion that he believed nature had not intended me for a block-head, and that under his care he hoped I might be brought to do tolerably well.

My examination was only just finished when another of my tutors was introduced, in manners and appearance totally different from Mr. Profody, nor cou'd a threadbare black suit and rusty hat disguise the man of genius and politeness, so much as to deprive him of the respect of persons of discernment. Mr. Profody eyed Mr. Tropic (by which name the stranger was announced) with a mixture of sour disdain and impatient curiosity, *sede domine*, said he (nodding his head magnifierially) Mr. Tropic with a modest bow took a seat : and Mr. Caveat directly joining us, the stranger

stranger informed him, he was the clergyman whom Mr. Problem of Westminster had recommended as a teacher of geography and mathematics. Before Mr. Caveat could proceed to answer, Mr. Profody took up the conversation. It is a great pity (said he) that the clergy are so fond of meddling in matters which do not concern them, the cure of souls is full enough for them to mind, without assuming a direction in the education of youth, *Ne futor ultra crepidam*.

Mr. Tropic replied that the beneficed clergy seldom interfered in those matters, but that it did not appear to him to be inconsistent with propriety for such as were destitute of provision in the church to obtain a subsistence by a mode of this sort.

And yet Sir (cried Mr. Profody) the wisest nations of antiquity never heard of any such thing. The Bramins and the Flamens, and the Gymnosophists were otherwise employed. The Druids indeed undertook the instruction of youth, but it was morals, not sciences, they taught.— And let me tell you Mr. Parson, that if philosophers alone were still resorted to on such occasions, the ancient world would not surpass the modern one in wisdom so notoriously as it does,—

but *tempora mutantur*,—'tis vain to struggle with the tide;—*quis talia fando temporet a lachrymis*.

Although I am not council for the defendant (said Mr. Caveat) I must beg leave to remark that there is an error in your plea, the discoveries and improvements of the Moderns are by no means contemptible. What, Sir, (cried Mr. Profody) do you pretend to prove that those great luminaries of science the Divine Ancients are in any degree to be compared with the Moderns? you might as well assert that Ossa, and Pelion, were no higher than mole-hills: or that the troops of a puny Italian State out-numbered the mighty armies of Xerxes, as say that any professor of the modern world should be placed in competition for fame with his predecessors of the ancient one.

Assertions prove nothing, replied Mr. Caveat.

True, Sir, said Mr. Profody, but proofs are easily adduced; where Sir hath modern times produced such a mathematician as Archimedes, such a satyrist as Archilocus, whose verses caused divers people to hang themselves through mere vexation, such a musician as Amphion, or such an astronomer as Claudius Ptolomeus. Perhaps

haps Sir, said Mr. Caveat, in poetry, music, and mathematics it would not be difficult to prove the title of the present claimants to a good moiety of fame in spite of the pretensions of former occupants, but in astronomy, pray what think you of Sir Isaac Newton?

I have done, Sir, said the pedant rising in great wrath, it is not for me to find Euphrasy and Rue to purge the visual nerves of all who cannot discern clearly; young gentleman (said he turning to me) be sure to study the lessons I have mark'd out for you, I expect to find you perfect in them against I come next: your servant gentlemen your servant.

A very testy sort of person this, Mr. Profody, said Mr. Caveat, as soon as the pedagogue was out of hearing, but he is eminent in his line, and we must take care not to quarrel with a man whilst we want his assistance.

My Guardian's opinion of Mr. Profody's eminent abilities was erected upon the same foundation, with that of the generality of observers on the characters of mankind, viz. his success in his profession, for let a man rise in the world by chance, by chicane, or by any course of arts, or

concurrence of circumstances whatsoever, when he has risen, his good fortune is immediately ascribed to his superior merit and wisdom, whilst he on whose labours fortune has not deigned to smile is not only left to buffet the waves of adversity, unpitied and unassisted, but also finds his abilities misrepresented, and his talents contemned.

The sentiment expressed by Mr. Caveat, viz. that we must never quarrel with a man whilst we want his assistance, evidently produced a similar emotion in Mr. Tropic's bosom and in mine, our eyes involuntarily met, and we exchanged a glance, which evinced our feelings were perfectly in unison; this was one of those trifling incidents which oftentimes open the avenues of esteem and intimacy more readily than matters of a more important nature, the indications of sympathy of soul form the links of man's most irresistible and indissoluble attachments: nature has ordained it so, nor is the instinct of the brute creation more fixed and invariable than this law.

Mr. Caveat proceeded to tell me that I must be particularly careful to treat Mr. Profody with respect, his attending on me at home being a mark of favour he only shewed to the children of people

ple of distinction ; after having pronounced this harangue on Mr. Profody's pretensions, my guardian thought proper to honour Mr. Tropic with some degree of notice, and told him that he relied much on him for the furtherance of my father's plan, having heard his capacity and diligence highly spoken of. Mr. Tropic blush'd, bow'd, and assured him he would exert his best efforts to acquit himself to the general satisfaction, and indeed he fulfilled his promise to the utmost extent, his lessons were given in a stile so gentle, clear and comprehensive, that a pupil must be stupid and indocile in an extreme degree who did not improve under his instructions which were not confined to the line he had engaged in, but extended to every branch of polite or scientific knowledge.

C H A P. VIII.

A Brief Chapter, containing another of the Baronet's Epistles.

WHEN Mr. Tropic took his leave after my first examination, Mr. Caveat called me into his study to impart to me the contents of a letter he had received that morning from my uncle, it ran as follows :

“ To Conceallor Cavite,
Lincolnsin feelds, Lundun.

Deer Sur,

Seeing as how I am grown too goutie and heavie for huntin, and not likin to lye bye without doin sum good in my generasion, I have caused myself to be returned for a Seat in my owne Burrow of Baconsdeal. I aint much given to speechifying, but I can say no to any thing the Courtiers purpofe, and that's anuff you know. This therefour cums to lett you know that I shall want a larg well furnished house, with roomy stabeling for aighteen or nineteen drafts, fore saddles, an three phillies, alsoe a convenient kenel for haf a score brase of dogs, I main to bring up. My ladie who alsoe cums, sais she wou'd
licke

licke sum of the squairs in Westmonster. Plays
to looke oute accordinglye. We shall not leve
this till Noevembear, an send they egecktmments
for they tennants who air in arrare.

I am Sur,

Your frend an servant,

C. Bruin.

This intelligence gave me some pleasure, my
uncle had always shewn a great degree of kind-
ness for me in his uncouth way, and although he
used to swear at me and call me a chicken-heart-
ed cur, for hesitating to leap a five-bar gate, I
flattered myself he would countenance me and
induce my father to afford me some share of his
affection, which I determined to merit by the best
conduct in my power.

C H A P. IX.

In which Mr. Tropic begins to relate the Story of his Life.

THREE months had now elapsed since my arrival in London, and I had set about the tasks appointed me so earnestly, that I devoted my entire mornings to Mr. Profody, and my evenings to Mr. Tropic, whose agreeable and instructive conversation induced me to forego the pleasures I had promised myself in partaking the amusements of the town, insomuch that I made a proficiency which surprized my tutors; yet the accounts Mr. Caveat transmitted to my father made no relaxation in his severity, I wrote to him several times in the most dutiful and affectionate terms, but he never condescended to answer my letters, and continued to communicate his commands to me through the medium of my guardian, who shewed me much kindness, as did his household, excepting only Miss Caveat, whom I unfortunately disoblige, by joining in opinion with her brother, who asserted that the Empress of Russia was as great a woman as Semeramis, but the friendship and agreeable conversation of her beautiful niece consoled me for the disdainful distance

distance the antiquated lady maintained towards me.

I also had the good fortune to please Mr. Tropic, infomuch that he treated me with the utmost degree of friendship and indulgence; encouraged by his kind behaviour I one day took the liberty of hinting it must be some uncommon injustice of fortune which had thrown him into his present line of employment. He looked at me for some moments, whilst a tear started to his eye in spight of his visible efforts to restrain it; —struck with sorrow for having excited his emotion, I entreated him to pardon the curiosity which had prompted a remark I was now convinced was improper.—It is true (Charles said he sighing) your observation aroused feelings I would wish to subdue, and recollections of incidents I should endeavour to forget, but if you chuse to hear me, I will relate the vicissitudes I have experienced. The detail may serve to shew you the world in a light persons at your time of life seldom consider it, and convince you the path which seems strewed with roses, conceals many a latent thorn. I assured him this proof of his confidence would lay me under the greatest obligation; and he proceeded as follows :

Descended from a respectable family, I received an education which fitted me for an elevated station. Life promised me numberless joys. I was apparent heir to a splendid fortune, which had been bequeathed to my father by a friend to whom he had rendered essential services. I had health, spirits, and good humour. My acquaintances all appeared to be my friends; and to crown all those flattering prospects, I obtained the affection of one of the most amiable of her sex, and our hands were united with my father's approbation. Three years after our marriage we resided in the house of this best of parents, in which time we were blest with two lovely children—never was a happier household.—But what is human happiness!—A gentleman related to that friend who had left his fortune to my father, returned at this period from India, where he had amassed prodigious wealth. He had been absent from England many years previous to the death of our benefactor, who conceiving he had a right to dispose of his possessions, and being confirmed in this opinion by several eminent lawyers, with whom he had consulted, bequeath'd them to my father, in preference of this relation from whom he had received many injuries. But what availed his precautions against the powerful influence of villainy, aided by wealth! Mr.

Visapour

Visapour our opponent, instituted a suit against us, as being the heir at law of his cousin, and brought suborned evidence to prove the testator had been insane at the time he perfected the will in my father's favour. In fine, he not only obtained possession of the estate, but also a verdict for the recovery of assets, arrears and costs of suit, for which he threw my worthy parent into prison, where, at that time, an infectious distemper raged. In vain I pleaded that it was to no purpose to heap afflictions on his venerable head; to extort satisfaction for demands he had no means of discharging. In vain I offered to surrender myself to bondage if he were set at liberty. I could not obtain the least mitigation of his sufferings. Our enemy knew not compassion. My father, my kind, my revered father, caught the fatal contagion and died.

Heaven which freed him from calamity and tyranny, permitted that my wife, my infants, and myself should feel still further miseries.

Affection to those dear objects roused me from the grief with which this heart-rending incident had overwhelmed me. I was sick of life, and wou'd willingly have rested from care in the sepulchre where I saw my parents cold relics deposited,
but

but those soft eyes still clung round my heart, and chained it to a world with whose ways I was disgusted. I beheld the partner of my soul and my dear little ones wretched and helpless, stripp'd of every comfort and driven from a home where the blessings of ease, affluence and content had surrounded them, to encounter hourly distresses, and experience the scorn of an unfeeling world. It was too much for my fortitude, I flew from friend to friend for assistance, I found them all cold, inattentive and unkind. No one opened an asylum to receive us, none interested themselves for us. We were soon neglected and abandoned by all. Nay, some censured us for our former extravagance which was literally supporting our station of life in a manner becoming our fortune, and many mocked our misfortune, saying, it was just that those who had usurped the rights of others should be stripped of their borrowed feathers. One human heart alone appeared to be endued with human feelings on our behalf. The Bishop of the diocese in which the estate I was deprived of lay, having an only son whom he was about to send on his travels, made choice of me as a proper person to accompany the young man. He sent for me, and not only proposed to allow me a handsome income during the time I should be employed as preceptor to his

his

his son, but also advised me to enter into orders immediately, and promised to give me a living which he expected would soon be in his gift, the present incumbent being aged and infirm. I gladly embraced the offer, and having long before taken my degree at Cambridge, put on the clerical habit, than which nothing could be better adapted to my inclinations. The parting from my beloved wife and little ones, even for a short time was a severe trial, but it was to obtain a subsistence for them, and this consideration subdued my feelings. The bishop settled them in a neat house, and I assigned over two-thirds of my income for their maintenance. I took leave of my reverend benefactor with tears of gratitude. Alas! it was an everlasting leave. He died during the second year of my absence from England. My pupil was recalled home by his guardians, and immediately after our return, I was dismissed, and thus bereft of all my expectations.

Again indigent, friendless and forlorn, I with my helpless family was driven out to seek for bread. My late pupil, a dissipated thoughtless young man, but not void of good nature, paid me a visit, previous to his going to settle in a distant part of the country (where his estate lay) and

and put a little pocket-book enclosing a bank-bill of fifty pounds, into my son's hand. With this, our whole worldly treasure, we sat out in a waggon for this metropolis, where I hoped such talents as I possessed might be employed to obtain sustenance for lives ten thousand times dearer to me than my own, but I had the mortification to find them useless, indeed generally speaking patronage is a necessary passport to the press. I offered myself as a translator, a daily writer, a pamphleteer, all in vain. I experienced every day new insults, new disappointments: My misery was jested with, my pretensions derided, and often after spending the day in fruitless applications, have I returned to the mean little lodging which contain'd all my soul held dear, wearied so much with life, that death would have been a welcome relief.

The gift of my pupil was now, in spite of our strictest frugality, just on the point of being exhausted. Ruin and despair hovered over our desolate heads. Dignity of sentiment gave way to the necessity of my wife and my offspring. The oppressor of my father resided in a magnificent dwelling near the street in which I occupied a miserable garret. To him I determined to apply. I stifled my sense of the injury he had done

us. I drew up a pathetic detail of the wretchedness of our circumstances. The feelings of the husband and the father gave energy to my pen, and in terms the most respectful and submissive I solicited his assistance to procure me some employment whereby I might be enabled to support myself and family. With an aching heart and dejected pace I sought his abode. Nothing but splendor and luxury were visible there; even the domestics displayed the lavish magnificence of their master. Surely (thought I) the heart at ease must be accessible to the claims of pity, and they who experience the sweets of plenty and content find an enlargement of happiness in diffusing a share of the blessings they possess to their indigent fellow creatures. I delivered my petition to one of the footmen who indolently lolled in the great man's hall, and presented him with half a crown (the half of my worldly substance) to induce him to deliver it. The fellow desired me to call at the same hour the following day, and he would by that time prevail on his master's valet de chambre to present my letter, and if possible obtain a favorable answer. I suppose by your appearance (said he) you are soliciting subscriptions, and his honor generally comes down pretty handsomely on such like occasions, more specially if so be as the book is to be
dedicated

dedicated to himself; but, hearkee friend, if you are a writer of sermons you're in the wrong box, for my master won't give you a doit. It was but the t'other day I heard him say, no man of taste wou'd suffer his name to be made use of to countenance such stuff.

I past an anxious and sleepless night; doubt, hope, fear and expectation, with ten thousand nameless feelings agitated my breast. In the morning my little son grew clamorous for bread. Alas! we had none. My last half-crown I was obliged to give our landlady the preceding day in part payment of the sum due to her for rent, and my darlings had not tasted food in consequence. His sister, elder than him by a year, endeavoured to soothe him. Fie Henry, said the sweet innocent, will you awaken poor mamma? see she is not crying now, but she will cry if you make her open her eyes. No Emily, returned the boy, papa is here now, and she never cries till he is gone. I turned and looked on the face of my sleeping wife. It was emaciated, and deadly pale. A torrent of tears gushed from my eyes, I threw myself on my knees in an agony of soul, which language cannot express; Almighty power (said I) if 'tis not impious in thy creature to wish to hasten the accomplishment
of

of thy decrees, take, oh take me from this scene of suffering to a state of eternal rest. And she the dear un murmuring partner of my distress, remove her from the accumulated horrors that surround us. I started up and quitted the house with precipitation, my thoughts were wild, and my whole deportment disordered; at length observing the passengers gaze at my frantic appearance, I turned towards the Park, and getting into an unfrequented walk, endeavoured to compose my spirits, and wait patiently for the issue of my application.

Mr. Tropic was interrupted at this interesting period of his story, by being sent for to attend to some material business; but in a few days afterwards he gratified me by resuming it, and proceeded as follows in the ensuing chapter.

CHAP. X.

*In which Mr. Tropic's Story is concluded, and some
Anecdotes of a Poet introduced.*

AT the hour appointed (said Mr. Tropic) I again presented myself in the great man's hall—my ambassador immediately recognized me, and advancing, presented me with a letter, which I hastily opened; its contents were couched as nearly as I can recollect, in the following terms:

Sir,

“Enclosed you have your very elaborate epistle; if you change the address it will do for some other person who may perhaps be weak enough to encourage vagrants in idleness.

I am, Sir,

your most obedient servant,

S. VISAPOUR.”

Surprize and indignation bereft me of the power of utterance. I tore the insulting scrawl to fragments, and casting them from my hands,
immediately

immediately quitted the house. Unmindful of the way I took, I again involuntarily bent my steps to the place I had quitted in the Park, and casting myself on the earth, remained a time in a state of mind I have not words to describe; from this agonizing reverie I was roused by the salutation of a person dressed in a ragged green frock with some vestiges of a tarnished gold binding: he seemed young, and had, tho' shabby, an air of gentility, and a strong expression of good-nature in his countenance.—

‘ You will forgive this abrupt address from a stranger Sir, (said he) when you consider all mankind are brethren by the common ties of humanity, I was waiting in Mr. Visapour’s hall, to solicit his subscription to some poems I am about to publish, and learning some particulars of your story, from one of the servants who had formerly known you, I took the liberty of pursuing you hither to offer my best services. Courage, my dear Sir, unpromising as my appearance is, I may perhaps have the happiness of being useful to you, and I entreat you will freely command me.’

‘ Rise Sir, added he) I beseech you, and sit on this bench with me: you must not decline my services, nor treat me with reserve. I am a
giddy

giddy and a poor fellow, but a very honest one ; however Sir, I will give you a particular account of myself, if you have patience to hear it, and afterwards we will proceed to discourse upon business.—My name Sir is Rymer, my father was an eminent haberdasher, and gave me a good education, but having the misfortune to shew distinguished abilities at school, and moreover having written some poems which were handed about the country and much admired, I became totally disqualified from succeeding my father in business, so he centered all his views in my younger brother, who was a good arithmetician, and spent his entire time behind the counter. The abilities I was supposed to possess procured me admission every where, and being not only a Wit and Poet, but also a Beau, my time passed very gaily, and I was caressed in the genteel circles our neighbourhood afforded : at length my father died and left the whole of his wealth to my brother, except one thousand pounds which he bequeathed to me to support me until my abilities should put me in a way to do for myself. A Poet is never mercenary, I wrote an Elegy on my Father, received my legacy from my brother, who deducted a proper allowance for prompt payment, it being as he said the way in trade, and putting myself into the most fashionable

shionable mourning, I began the world for myself. Things went on swimmingly for near a year from this period, and I can safely say, I was not left out of a convivial meeting, a ball, or a card party in our vicinity. A man of fine imagination cannot long escape the power of love. Miss Clackit who always praised my verses, and held herself disengaged till I asked her to dance, became the sovereign lady of my affections; she acknowledged a mutual flame, and we vowed eternal constancy. One morning when we had been largely expatiating on the praise of disinterested attachments, I took occasion to explain the state of my circumstances more fully than I had ever done before. ‘ And pray Mr. Rymer (said my charmer) have you not an uncle in the West Indies from whom you are likely to inherit a considerable fortune ?’ Oh, (said I) all hope from that quarter is at an end, for the old gentleman has married his Clerk’s Daughter, and settled every thing, Negroes, sugar-works, plantations, and all upon her; but love, my dear Miss Clackit, will so sharpen my wit and my diligence that we can never want the means of living with elegance.

Miss Clackit smiled, and I went away the happiest man in the world: judge then, Sir, how
great

great was my surprize when I went to pay my devotion to this idol of my wishes the next day, to be informed by the good lady her mother, that she was extremely sorry for my disappointment, but her daughter being a prudent young woman, had that morning bestowed her fair hand on my brother the haberdasher, who had long been her admirer, although he had not leisure to dangle after her.

Nature had given me a temper which nothing could discompose, I wish'd my 'sometime mistress, now my sister,' much felicity; wrote a very pretty epithalamium on the happy occasion, and thought no more of the incident. Soon after this time I found myself under the necessity of running in debt with my taylor and my shoemaker, and was now and then obliged to borrow ten or twenty guineas from my acquaintances; things proceeded from bad to worse, and finding the difficulty of borrowing encrease with the necessity of doing so, I sold my watch, my diamond ring, my dress buckles, and my inlaid hilted sword; in fine my wardrobe mov'd off article by article, to the Pawnbrokers, till I was reduced to this identical frock which now makes such a shabby appearance, and instead of having my card racks stuck full of invitations, I was
left

left at full liberty to dine with Duke Humphrey as often as I pleased. All this while I had friends who said a thousand good things of me, every body allowed I was the best humoured inoffensive creature in the world, a little dissipated indeed, but no one was more ready to do an obliging thing, or lost their money at play with more unaffected cheerfulness; but this latter good quality I was soon deprived of the opportunities of displaying, for after one ill-fated night, when I had lost more than I cou'd pay, I was forgotten by all the ladies of my acquaintance in their evening invitations. In short, Sir, finding my friends confined their kindness merely to verbal instances, and that a necessity of eating recurred every day, I thought it high time to do something for myself. Being fully assured of my own abilities, I considered, that to acquire both wealth and fame, I had nothing to do only to repair to the proper scene to exert them. London was the obvious spot, and accordingly thither I resolved to bend my course. After passing a sleepless night in revolving my plan, I arose, put on a pair of fashionable boots I had taken from my shoemaker some time before, brush'd up my frock, and had my hair dressed for the occasion; thus equipped, I went about to visit all my friends, and acquainted them of
my

my resolution. I had the pleasure of finding it met with general approbation, and received many good wishes for my success; among others, I called on my brother, and being much pressed by him and my sister in law, staid dinner. When the cloth was removed my brother thus addressed me: 'Tom, now that I see you are willing to try to do for yourself, I will show you how ready I am to assist you; here is a Bank bill for forty pounds, and I wish you success in your undertaking.'—This was a welcome present to me, who 'had not fifty ducats in the world,' besides it enabled me in some measure to discharge what I look'd upon as an indispensable obligation; accordingly I that very evening summoned all my trades-people, to meet me at a tavern, and when they were all assembled, addressed them in a concise speech, informing them of my situation and intended plan, and then producing the bill I had just got from my brother, offered to divide with them till I could fully discharge their respective demands. A murmur ensued, and after they had conferred together a while apart from me, my taylor, a very well spoken man, advanced, and declared it was their unanimous determination not to straighten a gentleman who in distress had shewn such principles of integrity, but to wait the time I could pay them with less inconvenience

inconvenience to myself. Struck with this proof of their consideration for me, I insisted at least on entertaining them for that evening, and ordered the best supper the house afforded. They were as joyous as if their bills had been paid, and I was as merry as if I did not owe a penny in the world. We parted late, with much cordial shaking of hands, and when I called for an account of the charges of our repast, I found the whole had been discharged in my name by my friend the taylor. —

To London then I came, Sir, fully assured I had nothing to do but make myself known to reap the harvest of bays and profit due to a first-rate genius. My imagination represented great men and great beauties courting immortality from my pen; all the learned and ingenious of the age soliciting my acquaintance and conversation; and Booksellers contending to obtain the preference in the purchase of my works. — Alas! — all this was meerly imaginary. I went from Book-seller to Book-seller with my manuscripts; some refused to read them being already overstock'd with trash; some read and disapproved them because Pope and Milton had written better — and others advised me to dispose of them to the Pastry-cooks. — My Tragedy too, Sir, a

work that had been extolled to the skies by all my friends in the country, and had even extorted tears from three ancient maiden sisters, to whom I read it on the same principle that Moliere read his productions to an old woman. My Tragedy after being returned unperused by the Manager, was refused admittance to the press, because it had been rejected at the Theatre. What was to be done?—eat I must, and I had neither money nor credit. I pawn'd my frock, by which means my wardrobe was reduced to a waistcoat and furtout, but this was a temporary relief; in this exigence I composed a sheet of paragraphs, with which I proceeded to the Printer of a periodical journal; fortunately for me the best writer retained for this paper lay extremely ill in a fever, so my *coup d'essai* was most graciously received, and I was appointed to fill the place of the sick man. I went on swimmingly in this new employment, for a whole month; but these were Halcyon days, and much too good to be permanent: my predecessor in office recovered, and I was instantly dismissed.

Why should I expatiate on the many ills I suffered in the various characters of a Coffee-house Porter, a Scene-shifter, or a professor of writing Letters at two-pence a-piece; or tell how I
baffled

baffled the *dæmons hunger and thirst* by relating facetious stories in tap-houses, or making honorable love to my landlady, who distributed threads and tapes in a shop little bigger than a bird-cage, situated in a blind alley.—I will hasten to the disastrous period, when having released my flock, I sallied out to solicit subscriptions for my Poems. The very first day of my expedition, I met one of my friends, who had formerly lent me ten guineas, for which I had given him my note payable on demand; this demand he made after the first salutation, I had it not in my power to comply, whereupon he dogg'd me home and had me arrested the next morning before my eyes were well open. I was hurried away to a spunging-house, but not till my landlady had sily conveyed half a guinea into my hand, which was a lucky circumstance, as I had only five-pence of all this world's wealth in my possession; from the spunging-house I wrote to my creditor, making him the fairest promises imaginable; but he, without considering I had nothing else to give, informed me he could not possibly restore my liberty without more substantial satisfaction.—I wrote to my brother, who answered by return of post, he was likely to have an encreasing family to support, and could not squander his substance to uphold me in idleness; so finding I had no re-

source, and my money being expended to the last farthing, I summoned the commander in chief of the fortress, and told him he had as good remove me to prison as I had nothing to defray any future expences I might incur, if I remained in his house; he appeared visibly affected, and after a few moments silence thus addressed me, ' Lookee Master, you've a merry heart, and tell a story well, that I'll say for you, besides you have had the civility to keep all my accounts *gratis* since you were brought here, which used to cost me something in the week, so do you see in God's name continue where you are, and you shall have a bed and share of what's going till you can raise the wind to pay off your arrest.'—I thank'd mine host for this proof of benevolence, so uncommon in one of his profession, and told him I would accept of his kind offer upon condition he would suffer me to make myself useful to him; he consented, and I am at this moment his clerk, accomptant, and prisoner, tho' permitted to come abroad to transact my affairs, upon parole of honour. And now Sir, that you have had the patience to hear me speak so much of myself, and my own affairs, I will tell you how I think I can be the instrument of some good to you. A letter was sent this morning by the Printer I already mentioned to you,

to

to my late lodgings, and forwarded to me by my little landlady, who *entre nous*, is disconsolate for my absence. Here it is, Sir, it contains an offer of employing me to write articles for a dictionary, a learned friend of his means to publish, at a Guinea per week. If this suits you, I will agree with him; you shall furnish the articles and have all the emolument.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

In which Mr. Tropic resumes and concludes the Relation of his own Story, and the Author takes up the Thread of his History.

A Proposal so disinterested coming from a person in circumstances apparently distressful, excited my utmost astonishment; spight of his *outré* appearance and strange loquacity, I could not help feeling both affection and respect for him. Sir, (said I) the motive which dictated this benevolent offer will ever engage my esteem and gratitude, but sunk as I am to the lowest state of indigence, I cannot yet be so selfish as to avail myself of your good fortune, and deprive you of the means of making your situation more comfortable, or, perhaps, extricating yourself from the restriction under which you now labour; no Sir, enjoy every advantage of the proposal thus made to you, and receive my best thanks for a conduct which at once has reconciled me with human nature, and convinced me of the uncommon goodness of your heart.—‘ My dear Sir, (returned Mr. Rymer) if you refuse to

oblige me in this particular you will mortify me more than you are aware of; you owe me no manner of thanks on the occasion, I really am not equal to the execution of a performance of this nature, the Muses, dear seducing nymphs as they are, ever have and ever will be my divinities, to them I have dedicated my time, my thoughts, and my talents. Lord bless me Sir, were I to set about such an abstruse task, I should infallibly be conning rhymes when I ought to be employed in tracing etymologies; besides I am now in possession of a valuable employment; you must know a Colonel of the Guards has conceived a violent penchant for a Widow Lady of distinguished poetical taste with a large jointure, and finding he had no chance of rivalling the pretensions of Sir Humphrey Stanza, unless he could celebrate her charms in better verses than his, resolved his wealth should procure what his genius denied, he accordingly applied to his valet de cham: to look out for some unfortunate son of Phœbus, who would be satisfied to barter the offspring of his brain for money. With this valet I had the honour of being very well acquainted behind the scenes when we both belonged to the Theatre, and having the good fortune to meet him in the critical moment he was in search of a person qualified for his master's purpose, I was
by

by him recommended and taken into pay. The Colonel allows me handsomely for furnishing him weekly with poetical offerings to present at the Widow's shrine. We have made Sir Humphrey look about him, distinguished as he fancied himself in the republic of letters, and will beat him off the field, I flatter myself, in spite of his utmost exertions; so you see Sir, you have no reason to apprehend any ill consequence accruing to me from your compliance with my request. This post will prove a mine of wealth to me, for the Widow's vanity will prolong the time of her reign as long as possible, and the Colonel cannot dismiss me unless he relinquishes his suit, which is an event beyond the bounds of possibility, unless an inundation should sweep away her jointure lands in Kent, or an earthquake shake down her houses in Shrewsbury.

Thus urged I complied at length with the solicitations of my new friend, who thereupon delivered to me a paper, specifying the articles I was first to proceed upon. This (said he when he presented them) is certainly not an employment worthy of great abilities, but my dear Sir, men of genius must sometimes stoop to the opprobrium of science, and exert their powers to procure fame for others; the commanding officer
often

often decks his brow with the laurel which has been reap'd by the sword of the private soldier. And now Sir I will take my leave, as the constable of the castle by this time expects me, but first here is the guinea earnest sent with the proposal which is undoubtedly your property, and I must beg to be favored with your address, as I shall do myself the pleasure of calling on you to-morrow, to carry your essay to the Printer.— I named the place of my residence, and Rymer hastily bowing, was out of sight in a moment.—

It was not till some months after, I learn'd on conversing with the Printer that he had not sent any earnest whatsoever with the proposal, so this guinea was the bounty of this worthy creature himself, out of the first payment of his stipend from the Colonel:— Could I have imagined this I would sooner have died than have accepted of it, but his address so well concealed the real state of the matter, that I took it as the immediate gift of heaven, and returned to my home with an heart overflowing with thanks to that providence of whose goodness I had been so impious as almost to despair.

The prospect of relief opened to me by Rymer's kindness, the supply thus unexpectedly given to our wants, and the cheerfulness involuntarily arising from his conversation gave a new turn to my ideas, the alteration in my looks and manner diffused satisfaction to my dear wife, and my pretty darlings caught a gleam of joy, and made our dwelling echo with their lively prattle; we dined comfortably, and I related to the beloved partner of my distresses the adventures of the morning. Ever pious and resigned she blest the goodness of that Almighty Power against whose inflictions she had never murmur'd; and thus raised from dejection by the humanity of a man who was himself struggling with a degree of indigence which would have centered the views of a narrow soul in cold self-interest, we pass the evening in a state of more sincere pleasure than our opulent oppressor could possibly know.

Learn from this little anecdote, my dear Charles, that there is scarcely a state of life, however mean and contemptible, in which a man can be placed by fate, where it is not in his power to do good to his fellow-creatures if he chuses to make the effort. If riches are your lot remember they are a sacred trust deposited in
your

your hands for the relief of your indigent and unhappy brethren, to be administered with wisdom and discretion to their real exigencies, not squandered on their idle or imaginary wants; if, on the contrary, your circumstances are too narrow to admit of your giving pecuniary aid to the distressed, still, recommend, comfort, and endeavour to sustain your fellow labourers—injure not—revile not—circumvent not—in fine recollect the situation and the charity of Rymer.

This benevolent creature came the next day, according to his promise, and was received like an old and dear friend, his cheerfulness was catching, he led off a dance with my little boy and girl, and set my wife laughing more heartily than I had observed her to do for many months before. He read to us an imitation of one of Petrarch's sonnets he had penn'd that morning and addressed to the Widow, it was really a very elegant one, and gave me a much higher opinion of his genius than I before entertained; he took the sheet I had written according to the instructions given me, to the Printer; it was so well approved of by Mr. Problem, under whose direction the compilation was to be publish'd, that he requested a conversation with the person who
had

had produced it. Rymer directly waited on him and informed him, I was the real and he only the nominal assistant; he also introduced me to him, and I was thus established in an employment which enabled me and my family to subsist. When this business was finished, Mr. Problem gave me more work in another branch of literature. He also recommended me as private tutor in some families of his acquaintance, and among others to Mr. Caveat to have a share in your education.

My respectable preceptor thus ended his discourse, and I felt if possible additional love and reverence for him on account of the distresses he had undergone. Great as my obligations are to his memory, that of permitting me to visit him at his own house is not the least. There I first beheld that virtuous poverty may be truly respectable, and that connubial felicity does not depend on wealth or station. His wife, a woman who might be reckoned beautiful and polite in the first circles, employed her entire study to render this little retreat agreeable to the object of her esteem and affection, whilst he with cheerfulness exerted every effort to keep care and anxiety far from her; and their mutual endeavours were unceasingly tried to render their lovely offspring

offspring as virtuous and as accomplished as themselves. There too I cultivated an intimacy with Rymer, who under a deportment verging on flippancy and carelessness, carried an heart overflowing with benevolence, and united great talents and liberal information, with uncontrollable vivacity, and a simplicity resembling that of the primeval ages.

C H A P. XII.

The Author's Initiation into Company.—A Visit to Portman-square.—A Billet-doux in the Erudite Style.

THE commencement of winter had now brought back the beau monde to the mansions they had so long deserted, among other families that returned to town was that of Mrs. Bloomford, whose eldest son had been my fellow idler and most intimate friend at Oxford, our intimacy was immediately renewed, and became more strict than ever ; a great visiting intercourse subsisted between Mrs. Bloomford's family and my Guardian's. My Uncle and his suite also came up about the same time, their arrival was announced to me by Mr. Caveat in his jocular manner one morning at breakfast. " Well Charles (said he) your Aunt is at last come to town to exhibit her monster, I am clear it must be her Ladyship has suggested this parliamentary scheme to the good Knight, if she had not demurred to his proceedings, as sure as equity is not law, a haunch, a bottle, and easy chair would have turn'd the scale against politics and the good of the nation ; aye, aye,

aye, this comes of old batchelors turning fools and marrying young wives, a pretty time for Hymen to lay on a mortgage, when Death is going to bring in an ejectment." Lord Brother how you talk (said Miss Caveat) one would think our sex were held by you to be incapable of advising wise or just measures, and yet you see the greatest men of antiquity taking council from, and acknowledging the dominion of women.—Did not Pericles consult with Aspasia, and Louis the XIVth with Madame Maintenon, and did not Pompey follow the lead of Cleopatra?

Antony followed her lead (replied Mr. Caveat) and a pretty figure he made in consequence of doing so! If some friend had issued a *non exeat* against him on that occasion, he would not have been so miserably nonsuited as he was; but Charles (said he turning to me) it will be necessary for you to pay your compliments to your uncle and aunt. I intend to go there presently, and if you chuse to accompany me, will take you with me.

I directly acquiesced, and we soon reach'd Portman-square. On our arrival at my uncle's house we were informed he was at home, and shewn into a parlour, where we waited some time before

before the Baronet made his appearance : at length he hobbled in, supported by a crutch, and exhibited a person bloated from intemperance, and a face crimsoned through excess. "Ha Lawyer Caveat, (said he) I am glad to zee thee—how is it with thee man? sound wind and limb'd, i'faith I think, Who've we gotten here? This an't your son, b'ent married man?"

No, thank heaven, Sir Charles, (replied Mr. Caveat) this young gentleman is your nephew, Mr. Charles Townly, who has resided at my house for some time past, in order to have his education perfected by good instructors.

Odso Charles (cried my uncle) thee art grown such a strapping feller, I did not know thee—what mon, thou'dst take a fourteen foot ditch now, or thou deservst to be d—d.—Dost remember how did'st whimper and whine when I forced thee to mount old Trunnion.—I hope thee hast mended thee manners?

Mr. Charles Sir (said Mr. Caveat) is a very promising young gentleman, and studies to deserve the favour of all his relations and friends,

Favour (cried my uncle) a hare's foot for favour—was he ever in at a death? Did he ever

ever crack your bottles at a zitting? I'd bet a thousand to ten-pence, his veyther will make a pippin squeezer and a puppy of un, but that's no affair of moine.'——

Mr. Caveat (observing I was distressed by my Uncle's odd manner) endeavoured to give a new turn to the conversation, by enquiring how Lady Bruin was after the fatigue of the journey.

'Wife's well enough (replied Sir Charles) zhe must ha been a devilish ninny indeed if the journey toired her, for we only came from Bath, where we have been this three weeks past.'

Mr. Caveat hoped it was not indisposition had caused the family to go thither.

'Why yes it was (returned the Baronet) I had gotten a confounded sort of a wambling in my stomach, with a kicking upwards whenever I eat, which was'nt above your times a day, so my Lady wou'd needs send for a Doctor, who came exprefs from London, to zee our near neighbour Sir Oliver Nervous, who was troubled with the hip what d'ye call um, and imagining he was turn'd into a frog, kept hopping about for fear his own French cook should fricassee him, ha! ha! ha!——

He!

He! he! he! (echoed Mr. Caveat.) 'But as I was telling thee (resumed the Baronet) this scoundrel of a Doctor, upon feeling my pulse upwards of half an hour, and asking fifty fiddle-faddle questions, told me I was gouty and bilious to boot, and must away to Bath directly or I bid fair to kick the bucket, besides this he wrote a prescription as long as one of your bills in Chancery, which was sent to Bolus the Poticarry's at C ———, who I believed was an honest feller till then; but he dispatched a cargo of nostrums enough to set up a mountebank, or dose a country Hospital, which provoked me woundily, as I heard un-over and over own in his cups, that Porter was the best cure for all disorders under the sun, but I sent them packing back again to him, and so telling the Doctor if I chose to be poisoned I could do it without his help, and that I was too knowing to be taken in, I bid him go about his business.

You conformed to some part of his advice however (said Mr. Caveat.) 'Why yes (said the Baronet) after this I grew worser and worser, so I thought I'd e'en as good try what Bath wou'd do, and away I went bag and baggage.'——I now ventured to speak, and hoped the waters had been serviceable to him.

Serviceable

'Serviceable (repeated Sir Charles) Z---ds man, did you ever know water-drinking do a man any service in your life? no, no, the very first week that I had been stew'd and drench'd I found t'wou'd never do, so taking my leave of the Pump-room, and the powder-monkeys, and gill-flirts, that keep buzzing there like so many drones in a bee-hive I laid in a Pipe of right good old Madeira, and stuck close to it till I got upon my legs again; but you two are come to dine I hope, for I'm woundy toir'd of living coop'd up with woife,—women are d--l-sh bad company unless a man be sick.'—Mr. Caveat immediately signified his assent to the Baronet's rough invitation, who thereupon told us, we wou'd foin'd my Lady in her dressing-room, unless we had rather come with him to see his favourite mare Moll Slamakin, who was laid up with a kiek she got from a hack in a Livery-stable at Bath.—We preferr'd seizing this opportunity of paying our compliments to her Ladyship, so were immediatly announced and admitted to her apartment:

I was uncommonly struck with the elegance of her person, and the politeness of her address; her countenance at once expressive of gentleness, modesty, and sensibility, tho' evidently pensive, was irresistibly engaging and interesting. Even
Mr.

Mr. Caveat, when he approach'd her, seem'd to have forgot his prejudices against the lovely sex, and look'd upon her with a mixture of reverence and admiration.

In spite of the Baronet's roughness, the day pass'd agreeably; a great part of the evening was devoted by her Ladyship and myself to music, in which she had made a good proficiency; and discover'd great natural taste; but at length we were joined by the *tete-a-tete* we had left in the eating parlour, the Baronet grumbling most vehemently at Mr. Caveat for flinching his glass and refusing the other bottle, and we soon after took leave of our entertainers, but not till I had received a very kind invitation to repeat my visits as frequently as possible.

I profess (said Mr. Caveat as our carriage drove off) this new aunt of yours Charles, is quite a Pamela. I expected to find her on her arrival, hemm'd in with bandboxes and fripperies, and encompassed with the whole bead roll of fashion-mongers; and lo her ladyship sat reading as demure as a judge, with an attention that would do honor to the first student in the Temple.—Ah, if that book was the Compleat Cook and Housewife's Guide, I'd venture to pronounce her husband

band a happy man, if a married man may be called so without a misnomer.

On our entering Mr. Caveat's house, a letter from my father was presented to him, expressing much pleasure in the accounts he had received of my conduct and progress, and desiring I may thenceforward be indulged with more liberty, and permitted to take some share in the amusements of the town; on signifying this intelligence to me, my Guardian retired and left me with Letitia, who had been present at our conversation.—Heavens Charles (exclaimed she) how I envy you for this decree of enlargement: Oh when will the time arrive that my cage-door shall be set open.

How wildly you talk Letitia (replied I.) —How can you blame me (said she) Grizelda herself, with all her patience, wou'd have got the vapours if she had led such a life as I do; a pretty time I have of it truly, listening to my uncle stating cases, and my aunt talking of the ancients from morning till night, unless, by way of variety, we go to Pancras Church, in the old creaking chariot, with the glassess all drawn up; or mumble a dinner, with the *outside* set of tapestry figures, that visit here; but come, tho' you don't deserve

deserve it, I'll make you the confidant of an affair *du cœur* ; nay, never start, its not an affair of mine ; but read this epistle, and it will explain the whole matter.——I took the letter, and read as follows :

To the all-excelling and superlative Lady
Miss CAVEAT ;

MADAM,

At an Epoch, when Cornelia : Mother of the Gracchi, sleeps in dust ; and the chaste Lucretia, Spouse of Collatinus, together with Portia the Wife of Brutus, have ceased to illuminate the earth with the refulgent beams of virtue, how great and agreeable is my surprize, on meeting a Lady of your liberal endowments.—Yes Madam, you are a *Rara Avis* in Terra, a constellation of perfections, or rather the living representative of that bright ornament of the celestial Gallaxy which is be'nempt Virgo, typyfying and expressive of the estate you bear ; but honourable as that estate is Lady, I wish to instigate you to change it, for the no less praise worthy one of Conjugality. Long have I (deterred by the example of the great Socrates's mishap) refused to embrace the yolk of Hymeneus, long doubted the existence of feminine excellence, but *ego sum convictus*. I offer my Palinode at the shrine of your worthiness,

grant

grant me then lady the boon to lay my pretensions at your feet, I will approach you with a veneration due to a Sybil, or one of the sacred order of Maidens (instituted by that great founder of ancient religion Numa Pompilius) denominated Vestale. The wisdom and gravity of the former, and the decorum of the latter, are in you united, to ensure my fealty. But Madam, if after considering this my Preordium, you should disapprove of my loyal intent, I will submit to your decree, as readily as Aristides did to the Ostracism.

Your faithful admirer,
and most obedient humble servant,

Laur. Profody.

The laughter excited by this elaborate declaration of love, for some minutes deprived me of the power of utterance. That pretty *billet doux* (said Letitia) my aunt pulled out with her handkerchief as she was retiring after tea this evening, to her studies, and the strangeness of the superscription so raised my curiosity, that I could not resist the impulse I felt to see the contents,—but hush—here she comes, throw it under the chair where she sat instantly, for fear she should suspect what we've been about, which she would never forgive.—Miss Caveat now entered the parlour, and with eagerness and anxiety in her looks hastily
went

went to search for the letter, which she had just then missed, on recovering her prize she seemed quite satisfied, and directly proceeded to interrogate me about our reception at the Baronet's, and what sort of creature the wife was;—determined surprize should enhance the mortification her envy must experience when she went to visit the object of her enquiry : I suppressed my real opinion, and spoke of Lady Bruin with indifference ; and Mr. Caveat being too busy to join us at supper, she was not undeceived till an interview with her ladyship crowned my scheme with success.

and now of course the letter was

found. I only

The subject continued by the following extract
 non of joy to the minutes before me of the
 power of resistance. That pretty little
 (said Loring) my name pulled out with her hand-
 kerchief as she was retiring after tea this evening.
 to her studies, and the strangeness of the situa-
 tion to which I raised my curiosity, that I could not
 resist the impulse I felt to see the contents of the
 letter—here she comes, show it under the chair
 where she sat instantly, for fear she should suspect
 what we've been about, which she would never
 for A. H. Caveat now entered the parlour
 and with eagerness and anxiety in her face

C H A P. XIII.

Evil Effects of relax'd Discipline.—The Baronet appears in a new Light.—Preparations for a Combat.

THE freedom on which I was so much congratulated by Letitia, was by no means conducive to my good, it was a snare too dangerous for my inexperience. At first I only frequented the scenes of publick amusement, but having been introduced by Bloomford (who was now my constant associate) to some of his libertine companions, I was prevailed upon to join sometimes in their supper parties at Taverns, and though I was at first shock'd at the excesses I beheld, and the disregard evinced by my new companions for every thing I had been taught to hold sacred, I gradually found my horror and my repugnance abate, and more favorable sentiments take their place in my mind. My principals were imperceptibly relaxed by the system which was now held forth to my imitation; with a taste for gaiety, a great natural flow of spirits, an unsuspecting temper and a heart unguarded by prudence, and untutored by experience, I soon,

although uncontaminated by vice, grew cold to the impulses of virtue, and entered into schemes of folly and dissipation, as readily through want of consideration as my new friends did through profligacy.

Mr. Caveat soon perceived the alteration in my conduct, and took me very severely to task for the irregularity of my hours, I excused myself by pleading the lateness to which all publick diversions are protracted, and sometimes alledged that I had spent evenings with Mr. Rymer or with Mr. Tropic, when in reality I had only paid them short visits, and past the remainder of the time with Bloomford, and his set.

How weak, how prone to error is the human heart ! I, who so lately had been free from every improper tendency, now deliberately entered into a course of deceit and falsehood, without feeling how mean and unjustifiable my proceedings were. The mind of man, is an enigma to itself, e'er *ingenuity* can sketch the rough draught of what passes there, *self-love* snatches the pencil and decorates the piece with such softened touches, and so beautiful an hue, that its deformities vanish, and we view with complacency what should be an object of dislike.

But

But though I (unhappily) had attained to the art of imposing upon myself, I could not do so upon Mr. Caveat: who immediately gave notice to my father of the career I had entered into; this complaint produced a severe remonstrance from my father, but the evident want of tenderness throughout his letter, was more calculated to hurt my feelings than awaken the necessary conviction in my mind. It therefore failed in its avowed intention, leaving me irritated rather than reform'd. And Mr. Caveat, having thus fully adhered to the letter of his duty, quieted his conscience, and gave me no further molestation in my pursuits.

But notwithstanding the frequency of my tavern engagements, I still cultivated the friendship of my uncle, the peculiarities of whose character and manners, I now had full opportunities of observing in various lights.

Mr. Caveat, notwithstanding his wonted sagacity, was intirely mistaken in the motives that had given rise to my uncle's parliamentary scheme. A journey to London was so far from being agreeable to Lady Bruin's desire, that when she found her influence insufficient to dissuade her husband from this undertaking, she earnestly peti-

tioned to be left behind at the castle, whilst he attended his duty in the metropolis, but in this too her efforts proved ineffectual ; the Baronet looking upon her to be almost as necessary a part of his suite, as his dogs or his horses.

It is the business of moral philosophers to determine why the seeds of ambition frequently lie choaked up in the mind, till some accident calls them forth to vegetate ; it is certain that Sir Charles's views during the long series of years which had elapsed from his birth, to the one on which he became a candidate for parliamentary distinction, had been limited and confined to that circle of importance formed by his immediate tenants and dependants, nor had once expatiated beyond the bounds of his own estate, where he played the great man, and indeed the tyrant with impunity, brutal ignorance rendering him as ferocious and unfeeling as depravity of heart could have done. So great had been his aversion to parliamentary business, that he actually affronted the rector of the parish, and forbid him his house, merely for saying, ' he wondered he would not ' get himself returned for a seat in his own borough.' And laughed at his neighbour Sir Oliver Nervous, for encreasing his mortgage debts every session to secure a niche in the House of Commons,

Commons, which he occupied without much disturbance to that august assembly, his oratory being meerly monosyllabic, and confined to the two words *aye* and *no*. Yet from this folly (as he called it) of Sir Oliver, did his change of opinion and measures originate, for being summoned on a jury, in a neighbouring assize town, on which Sir Oliver was also enrolled, my uncle saw so much more deference paid to Sir Oliver (on account of his parliamentary honors) than was shewn to himself, that his pride was aroused, and he instantly determined to take a seat for his own Borough on the next vacancy.

This previous step taken, and raised to an eminence equal to that of his neighbour, his next proceeding was to endeavour to exalt himself still more above him, for this purpose he took every opportunity of ridiculing his weaknesses and insulting his opinions. Sir Oliver who was a *petit maitre* of the first class, had ever entertained a most despicable opinion of my uncle's abilities and an absolute aversion to his manners. The spirit of emulation Sir Charles now manifested, superadded to the former dislike contributed to imbitter Sir Oliver's spirit still farther, insomuch that he could not prevent certain peevish ebullitions from overflowing in his conversation with his

neighbour, whose uncouth spirit burst out into all the vulgar violence that might be expected from his character, to the infinite amusement of all who had an opportunity of hearing the conversation of those two originals.

The first intimation I received of this disunion, was on a day I dined at Portman-Square, when my uncle came home in a violent rage, inveighing most vehemently against Sir Oliver.—“A foin thing (cried he) if a man of my property is to be insulted and abused by a musk-cat of a feller, a pretty time of day, truly, when frogs pop up their powdered pates to call free-born Englishmen, goats, and vend-alls.” My aunt with great mildness requested to know the cause of his displeasure, but he only replied, “lets zee—you that have been in frog-land (d—n—n to the good-for-nothing old badger your grandmother that sent you to be bred there) can you construe me the manners of calling a Knight Baronet a boar,—D—n me but the wooden-shoed popinjay called me a boar, and said I gave him the *any-way** whenever he heard me speak,—tell me the meaning of that,—

* We suppose Sir Charles meant *Ennui*.

is that French politeness!—but I gave him a good as he brought, and bid the puppy —

Bless me Sir Charles (exclaimed her ladyship) I am terrified to death at the consequences which may arise from this unlucky dispute.

“Consequences of a fiddlestick (replied the Baronet) the feller wou’d as lief be d—d as face a cudgel, or take a bout at fifty cuffs, but if he should pluck up heart, let me alone to give him a belly-full of fighting!”

My aunt’s apprehensions were well-founded, for she was only just withdrawn after dinner when a gentleman desired to speak to my uncle in another apartment, it was a friend of Sir Oliver’s, who brought a message from him to Sir Charles, demanding an apology for his rudeness, or a meeting the next morning. When Sir Charles returned to the eating parlour he threw down the billet he had received. “There (said he) is an invitation from the powder monkey Sir Oliver.”—“And what answer have you sent Sir, (said I)”—“Why (returned he) I only said that as to the matter of submission I was not used to it, so would not submit, but if Sir Oliver was minded for a bout

at

at loggerheads, I'd be his man; the skipjack, who is another of the frog-family as I suppose, stared like a stuck pig, upon which (says I) you ben't deaf, are you? which was civil enough, you'll allow, but he took it as an affront, jump'd like a turkey at Bartledom Fair, and told me he did not know what I meant by such strange language, however he desired to be informed if I would comply with the appointment and bring a friend with me, as Sir Oliver had done him the honour of naming him to be his. D'ye see says I, I don't see any honour of being his friend, not I, but he may bring all the friends he has in the world, for what I care, the more the merrier, and now I think on't I'll bring nephew to shew un a little of what's what. So Charles, you shall stay here to night, for we must be stirring betimes in the morning.

In return to this offer, I told my uncle that my youth and the relation I bore to him, rendered me a very improper person to be his second. A fig for such nonsense, returned he with great warmth, it shall be as I say, I'll take care it shall. And indeed he verified his threat, for he did not let me stir out of his sight till he escorted me to a bed-chamber.

ber. However on pretence of sending to inform Mr. Caveat of my being to stay out all night, I made him acquainted with the affair, and begged he would take such steps as he thought necessary.

C H A P. XIV.

In which the Particulars of the Duel are related.

SCARCELY had the steeds of Aurora chased darkness down the skies, when my ears were assailed with a tally-hoe! which roused all the inhabitants of the mansion,—it was a signal from my Uncle, who was already equipp'd and eager to enter the lists; I made the utmost dispatch, and in a few minutes was ready to attend the issue of a contest that seemed to promise more diversion than peril, as the characters of both parties took away all dread of any fatal consequences.

The appearance of Sir Charles was so truly grotesque I could scarcely refrain from laughter on beholding him.—On his head he wore a small round wig in the coachman fashion, over which was placed a hunting cap of black leather, a light green short jacket (formerly made up for hunting) more conspicuously exposed his unweildy bulk, a tight boot on one leg, and a flannel bandage

dage with a gouty shoe on the other, compleated his dress; in his hand he brandished a huge basket-hilted cudgel, and breathed forth defiance to his puny antagonist.

We had the advantage of first taking the field, where we had time to cool our courage before the arrival of Sir Oliver, whose carriage at length drove up, preceded by two servants who brought a carpet, which they spread on the ground before he descended shivering from his vehicle; never was a more compleat contrast than his figure exhibited to that of my Uncle; his head was enveloped in a large muslin night-cap, trimmed with Brussels lace, and ornamented with pink ribbon; his banyan was of a beautiful chintz, lined with green sattin, his slippers embroidered, and a bottle of salts in his hand: he was attended by the gentleman who had been the bearer of the challenge, and a surgeon; two servants brought up the rear, one bearing a sword and a case of pistols; and the other a case with cordials, and the surgeon's instruments.

Upon the approach of this procession my Uncle was struck with surprize, but presently recovering, he vociferated, 'What the D-v-l is it the fashion in France for men to send their wives

to

to fight for them?"—Bless me, Sir Charles, exclaimed Sir Oliver, what a strange idea have you been led to adopt, thro' the means I took to secure myself against the inclemencies of the morning air in this wretched climate. He's a dirty bird that bewrays his own nest, cried Sir Charles, Great Britain is the finest country on the face of the Globe by ———, let Tories and French *Monsieurs* say what they will.

Mon dieu ! quelle sauvage, exclaimed Sir Oliver, who with the assistance of his servants had now disencumbered himself of his nightcap and gown, under which he had a compleat suit of cloathes, lined with furs, and a cambrick handkerchief tyed round his neck over his cravat.

Look'ye Sir Oliver, returned my uncle (highly incensed at the shrug of contempt which accompanied his antagonists expression) if ye have any thing to say to me, speak in your mother-tongue, I do not understand your monkey's lingo.

It will be necessary, said Sir Oliver's second (eyeing Sir Charles with ineffable disdain) before we proceed in this business, to measure the ground and determine the distance.

Ye

Ye, ye, ye, yes returned Sir Oliver in a trembling voice, I, I, I, pro-te-test the intense co, co, cold of this mo, mo, morning will scarcely per-mi-mi-mit me to sp, sp, speak.

Whilst Sir Oliver's second was thus employed, the Baronet advanced towards my uncle, and told him it gave him the greatest concern to meet a countryman and near neighbour on such a score: could any remedy (said he) be found to heal the wounds my honour has sustained from your intemperate language, I should most readily embrace it, in preference to this bloody method.

E'er Sir Charles had time to frame a reply to this pacific speech of his antagonist, Sir Oliver's second advanced, and declared he thought the walnut-tree near the Park-wall a good place for Sir Charles to take his stand, and begg'd to know his choice of weapons.

Choice of fiddlesticks, replied Sir Charles brandishing his cudgel, here is the only weapon I shall use on the occasion. Bless me, Captain Butterfly, exclaimed Sir Oliver in manifest terror, did you ever hear of such brutality?

I expostulated

I expostulated in a low voice with my uncle, and endeavoured to dissuade him from his strange conduct, and prevail on him to make Sir Oliver a slight submission, which I knew would put an end to the matter as the smallest concession would be sufficient to appease the visibly affrighted macearoni, but in vain, he called me for a pidgeon-hearted cur, and swore Sir Oliver should beg his pardon, or he would break every bone in his skin before he left the spot.

Captain Butterfly, after having in vain desired my uncle to produce his pistols if he chose to decline small swords, brought those of Sir Oliver, and presented them for inspection; When lo, in the critical instant, a Magistrate attended by a posse of his myrmidons appeared, and producing his authority, laid both the Baronets under arrest to give bail for the preservation of the peace; I directly conjectured this was done in consequence of the notice I had sent to Mr. Caveat, but I was quickly undeceived, as that gentleman arrived at the scene of action, and whispered me he had given the proper notice to a Magistrate, who had promised him to come speedily, but said he, winking and looking very wise; it is as well our antagonists have prevented

The necessary particulars being adjusted, and Mr. Caveat having given bail for Sir Charles's peaceable demeanor. Sir Oliver, after expressing a proper degree of concern for an interruption so unexpected, made his compliments to the company, and bowing profoundly to my uncle, re-ascended his carriage, and departed, accompanied by his suite.

My uncle looked after him wistfully for some time, and then set up the cry of stole away in the true sportsman's cadence, by which method having in some measure vented his choler, we decamped also, and thus ended an affair, which, though somewhat deficient in regularity of incident, in its catastrophe, was perfectly similar to the generality of modern duels.

C H A P. XV.

In which Mr. Rymer relates one of his Adventures.

MR. Tropic kindly devoted every hour he could spare from his necessary avocations, to the improvement of my mind, at the same time that he paid the strictest attention to my morals. In order to fulfil his duty upon both those heads, he engaged me more frequently than ever to visit his house, and lest I should be disgusted with the calm uniformity of domestic society, he form'd little schemes of amusement, at once instructive and innocent.

He was now settled in a small but neat house, and as his society (notwithstanding my irregularities) still retained its wonted estimation in my opinion, I often declined the company of my tavern associates to comply with his invitations.

Rymer was now rendered tolerably easy in his circumstances, he was even rich, when his late and his present situation came to be compared.

This

This alteration he owed to the Colonel, who had been married to the Widow, and had rewarded the services of his poetical assistant with grateful liberality.

But a gratification which seemed to afford him still greater satisfaction, was several compliments he had received from the Literati, and divers invitations to oratorical clubs, and meetings of the learned and ingenious of the age ; of these he spoke in such terms, that I expressed a strong desire to be present at some of their assemblies, Rymer with his accustomed politeness directly offered to take me with him to one (of which he had heard a high character) that very evening.

Mr. Tropic now joined in the conversation, and offered to make one in our party, tho' at the same time he cautioned me against raising my expectations of our entertainment too high, " So many talents (said he) are requisite to form a public speaker, that we scarcely ever meet a finished Orator ; this is so obvious, that I wonder it does not restrain men from placing themselves in a ridiculous point of view ; but the influence of vanity is not more unaccountable than the mistakes it makes in seeking its gratifications.

Good

Good orators (said Rymer) I grant are but seldom met in such assemblies, or indeed in any department of public speaking, but my dear Sir, allow me to say, that you seem to over-rate the qualifications requisite to enable a man to proceed in this business, for my part I think a good assurance, and presence of mind, the things most necessary. I'll give you an instance of this from my own experience. It was during the summer vacation at the Theatre, the year I followed the fortunes of the heroes of the buskin, that an enterprising genius of our company, suggested to a few of his fellows, that whilst the Veterans were making their summer campaigns in Ireland and Scotland, it would not be amiss if we took a tour of some of the small towns and villages in our own country to edify and amuse the inhabitants with theatrical representations, the proposal was received with loud plaudits, so clubbing our wealth and our wits, we fitted up a few pasteboard castles, and a forest daubed on ragged canvas; and set out with hearts elate on our expedition.

“ Things went on swimmingly at the first village where we halted, we had a crowded barn every night, insomuch that upon examining the profits of the house, and deducting all expences,

at

at the end of the first fortnight, there remained an overplus in the hands of the manager, which he generously proposed to lay out in a scarlet stuff cloak for Cato, and a new black flannel mantua and petticoat for Calista, which latter article he made to serve (occasionally) as a robe for the enchanter Merlin.—Ah! he was the paragon of managers; and never shall we look upon his like again.”

“ Encouraged by this great success, we were determined to exert our utmost efforts to deserve the public favour, and accordingly pitched upon the Tragedy of Hamlet, in which the whole strength of the company could be united.—It was most pompously announced, the house filled the instant the door was opened: two blind fiddlers, the only hands we could pick up for our orchestra, played their very best tunes over and over again; the first music was past and gone, so was the second. The audience grew impatient at our unusual delay. Alas! it was unavoidable, the Ghost had unfortunately got into company with the excise-man of the parish, and had poured out such plentiful libations to Bacchus, that he was totally disqualified from making his appearance for that night.”

“ Dejection

“ Dejection and dismay took instant possession of every countenance behind the scenes, except my own, when those sad tidings were disclosed, but considering the honour of the house would be forfeited if this disappointment took wind, I instantly stood forward, and offered to undertake the part; my offer was accepted without hesitation, and all hands quickly employed to equip me: The Queen herself condescended to assist in whitening my face, and the King and Polonius accoutred me in a compleat suit of painted linen armour, I flourished my truncheon, stalked along majestically, and it was agreed on all hands I would make night as hideous as my predecessor in office had made it. The Play began, and I went thro’ my first appearance with great approbation, and now, Hamlet had followed to the spot whether I had beckoned him, and gone through his pathetic address to unseal my lips, it became my turn to speak, when lo, a difficulty before unthought of occurred, I had never studied the part; I however went on triumphantly upon the strength of memory, until I got to the interesting part where I should have spoken of my prison house. No fear I should tell its secrets; I forgot every tittle of the matter: it was no time to hesitate, speak I must, so I went on to this effect,

I am

I am thy Father's Spirit,——

I know 'tis not the fashion to give credit
To tales of Goblins,—this discerning age
Of all things doubt, lest they should own too
much ;

But surely you may now believe your eyes.
Strange matters I might utter if I durst ;
But this eternal blazon must not be
To ears of flesh and blood !

My astonished son stared as wildly as if he had actually seen an apparition—the Prompter popp'd out his head from the side-scene—and the Manager started up in the front row of benches, where he sat with the school-master of the parish (a rigid dissenter and profound critic) to come and chastise me for my innovation. But he quietly resumed his seat on his companions observing, that this new alteration of the play was a very good one, infinitely preferable to the Popish trash about purgatory, which Shakespeare had inserted ; and the rest of the audience seemed to be of the same opinion—for they made the barn echo with their applauses.

C H A P. XVI.

Debates of a learned Club.

AT the hour appointed for our meeting in the evening, I went to Mr. Tropic's where I found Rymer; and immediately set out for the Minerva, in D—— Street, where this eloquent and Philosophical Society held their weekly assemblies.

On our arrival at the destined spot, we were ushered by the Door-keeper with great solemnity into a large room, ill lighted, and furnished with crazy forms, one large old-fashioned elbow chair stood at the upper end, and a long oak table occupied the middle, on which stood a row of well-scowered pewter pots, filled with porter, and a plentiful modicum of pipes and tobacco.

Rymer having previously desired our guide to announce Mr. Rymer, and two of his friends, we met with a distinguished reception; the company, an odd looking ill-dressed group, who

who were standing confusedly and talking vociferously, instantly suspended their disputes; every eye was bent towards us, the President advanced, and making a profound bow, welcomed the Poet in the name of the Society, of which he was convinced he would prove a shining ornament; Rymer answered this compliment with becoming gravity and politeness, and was then led to a seat next the President's, who immediately assumed the chair, and opened the business of the meeting.

The first question he read ran as follows.—

“It is requested the learned members here assembled will determine what are the talents most conducive to excellence in conversation.”

A total silence now ensued; the President again read over the question with an audible voice, but his auditors remained mute as the Disciples of Pythagoras; a third time he repeated it, and then reseated himself to wait till the spirit should move some of those philosophers to hazard an opinion.

At length a slender emaciated figure, with a brown tie wig, and a defecated suit of second mourning

mourning cloaths, arose, and began in a squeaking tone and tremulous accent, as follows :

“ Mr. President—ahem—Mr. President, Sir—It was not my intent to speak—ahem—to the question this night, but finding gentlemen averse to open a debate in which the fate of—a hem—oratory is so deeply involved, I find myself forced—a hem—and as it were constrained to abandon my primeval resolution ; yes, Mr. President, the cause of not only the myriads that at this present moment inhabit this terraqueous globe, is now depending on our candid disquisition and accurate survey of this interesting subject, but the privileges of future ages, and generations yet unborn—a hem—a hem—yes, Mr. President, to us the multitudes now scattered over the wide-extended surface of the earth turn their eyes for the vindication of their freedom of utterance—to us the babe yet hidden in the shades of chaos, and old night lifts its powerless hands and pleads for future liberty of speech.”

Thus far had the speaker proceeded, when his three minutes being spent, the direful hammer was raised aloft ; the President averse to the cutting short so hopeful an orator, held his uplifted

arm

arm suspended, and a loud cry of 'hear him—
hear him,' echoed from every part of the room,
but alas! the nerves of the unfortunate cham-
pion of the freedom of babes unborn, were so
discomposed by the interruption, that posterity
was deprived of his well-meant services—he re-
sumed his seat precipitately, nor did he recover
himself sufficiently to speak again during the
whole debate.

His successor in eloquence was Mr. Squab, a
short broad-faced person, in a brown drab suit
and a grey wig. "Mr. President (said he with
great impetuosity) I can't for the life of me
agree with the ingenious member who spoke to
the question—I do not comprehend how children
not come into the world can be at all concerned
in what we say that are now in it, nor how our
freedom of speech is endangered by any thing,
unless it be by the encroachments of our wives,
who will undoubtedly stickle for the last word to
the end of the chapter; but this grievance, Mr.
President, is a grievance interwoven with the
nature of the matrimonial compact—our fathers
bore it—our grandfathers bore it—our great
grandfathers bore it, and so on up to Adam,
and why should we attempt to consider it as an
innovation of our rights, or a breach of the

household charter, let us Sir, guard against any further attacks of our argumentative privileges on this side, where we alone are vulnerable, and not distract ourselves with imaginary fears and chimerical apprehensions."

A tall, bony, four visaged speaker, in a soiled garb, composed of plaided stuff and coarse drugget, next arose, and in a broad Scotch cadence address'd the chair,—“ I dunna ken Maister Prefesdent (said he) why we shud set out with erguing on matters queet furriegn to the preeposition noo before us, it is muckle strange to abaindon the meen pint and fresk awa into degreessions on sic things as lack aw connection wi it; it calls to oor remeembronce the Kneeght of the sorrowful coontenance aimbling aboot to aincoontre weend mulls and ainchainted cof-fles."

“ The honourable member in the dirty shirt (said a spruce-looking gentleman starting up briskly) has expressed my idea to an iota, I therefore humbly move that Mr. President, do read the question to remind gentlemen of the business now before this learned assembly."

The Scot, much incensed by the reflection cast upon his drapery, arose in great wrath to retort insult with insult; but he was forced to resume his seat where he sat muttering in a growling tone, whilst Mr. President again read the question.—“It is requested that the learned members here assembled will determine What are the talents most conducive to excellence in conversation.”

A snug looking person of a composed countenance and grave demeanour, now arose and proceeded as follows,—“Mr. President, every body can speak, but it is not every body that knows how:—little said is soon mended.”

“Although (said a consequential looking member rising) although Mr. President, I agree with my proverbial friend (for whose judgment I have the greatest deference) in the main point of condemning volubility; I must differ from him in the particular one of applauding taciturnity, in my opinion, conversation is a traffic which enriches the trader, by the acquisition of foreign stores, which he may vend with honour and profit,—’tis true he may not always bring his goods to a saleable market, but a skilful dealer

dealer will easily know what will best suit his customers.—The man who carries woollen drapery to Norwich, or coals to Newcastle, will find he has his labour for his pains, whereas if he had taken his drapery to Bermingham and his coals to London, he would have carried home empty packs and full pockets. It is the being skilled in those niceties of calculating advantages, that turns the balance of trade in favour or dis-favour of this or that party.”—

The envious hammer snapt the thread of his oration, and a slim formal figure succeeded the adept in trade. “Conversation, Mr. President (said he) gives vent to the humours and purges the mind, as effectually as medicine does the constitution, but we must know how to administer the dose, and never, except in desperate cases, blister with invective, or apply the caustic to sore places. We should carefully weigh our discourses, and examine every grain and scruple, else what was intended as an anodyne, may prove offensive as an emetic. Too much opiate is bad, though highly in favour with many able practitioners.”

This

This person had scarcely finished his harangue when an orator of broad sanguine visage, and remarkably rotundity of waist got upon his legs with alacrity. "Mr. President (said he) in my opinion, Conversation is a warfare, wherein bravery will not always ensure success, good generalship is equally necessary, as force of arms.— A skilful warrior knows when to advance and when to retreat; opens his ambuscades, and springs his mines with effect, and is seldom pushed to the *dernier resort*."

These three last speakers had entered so deeply into professional dialect, that I immediately set them down in my own mind, as a merchant, an apothecary, and a soldier, but on enquiry, I was much surprized to find, that the explainer of the mysteries of trade, was an attorney's clerk, the man of medical metaphor, an excise-officer, and the person of military phraseology, a dealer in felt hats. It would be a vain attempt to pursue this collection of philosophers, through the intricate mazes of elocution, and various windings of debate: I will therefore hasten to the grand catastrophe of the evening, when, they after many hours talking without elucidating the question, left it involv-

ed in its original obscurity, the native of Caledonia (finding it too hard a task to eschew the affront given to him by Mr. Dapper, the mercer's foreman, in the early part of the night), arose and desired to be heard upon a matter relative to himself. After some hesitation, the President (guessing his wrathful intent) declined to grant him this privilege, adding there was no precedent on the books of the society.—“ Precedent or nai precedent (cried the enraged Scot) I will be heard in my awn reeght, what shall a bairn of yesterneeght caist aspairfions on the desceendent of an aincient hoose with empu-nity ?

Order, order, order, loudly echoed from all parts of the room, but in vain. The Goddess to whom the meeting was dedicated now drove away her owl and assum'd her Ægis. War, horrid war commenced. Some ranged themselves under the banners of the northern hero, whilst others abetted Mr. Dapper's cause, fearful grew the din, and loud was the clangour of uplifted porter pots with candlesticks of tinkling brass : whilst the combatants breathed clouds of suffocating steam in each others faces, or hurled their fiery tubes at random around. Confusion, horror, discord, and dismay took possession of the

the theatre, where eloquence and philosophy had whilom reigned; when lo, the entrance of the constable and the watch, put to flight all alike the coward and the brave, and in the general route, we thinking it best to provide for our own special safety, decamped with precipitation.

C H A P. XVII.

New Instances that Thoughtlessness and Credulity can never be too carefully guarded against: And that a Man who makes one false Step is led into many more than be intended.

MR. Caveat offended at my father's neglect of his representations relative to my irregularities, had ceased for some time to pay any attention either to my conduct or my companions, the consequence was, that I grew still more dissipated.— I yet endeavoured to preserve appearances; and whether it was owing to the inattention, or the credulity of Mr. Caveat, I succeeded so far in my attempts, as (undiscovered) to lay a foundation for the ruin of my peace, my character and my fortune.

My intimacy with Bloomford was no disadvantage to me in the opinion of my Guardian, or that of his sister, who both seemed to think highly of him, and frequently invited him to their dinners and card-parties, with his mother, a widow Lady, to whose guardianship he was left at an early age; and who being too weak both in intel-

lect

left and constitution to attend to her charge, had thrown the reins on his neck before he was capable of feeling the curb of discretion, so it is no wonder he ran beyond the limits of propriety.

The profusion with which Bloomford had been supplied by his mother, had hitherto prevented him from applying to any of the harpies who mark out extravagant minors for their prey. But his demands now began to run to a height which alarmed her, and to his surprize and mortification, she peremptorily refus'd to indulge his extravagance ; in this exigence he came to me, to consult on a method of raising a sum for his immediate-uses. I instantly shared with him a note of sixty ponnas, which my uncle had given me to defray my pocket expences, and enable me to make a genteel appearance, my allowance from my father being insufficient for that purpose. Indeed my uncle had lately been kind to me in an uncommon degree, which I entirely attributed to the good offices of his wife, whose amiable disposition became every day more and more apparent. From a knowledge of her estimable qualities, I grew very strongly attached to her, insomuch that it was with difficulty I could suppress my resentment when I heard her ridiculed by Miss Caveat, who was now become her frequent visitor, as

Leticia who was a great favorite with my aunt, never was allowed to go to any place without this vigilant Duenna ; but tho' I could not venture to be openly revenged I was determined to punish her malice, and accordingly in conjunction with Rymer soon after effected my purpose.

Mr. Tropic grew daily more sensible of the alteration in my system of thinking and acting, but he saw my deviations with compassion, and without coming to an explanation on his motives, endeavoured by every gentle and persuasive method to reinstate and confirm me in the paths of rectitude : my heart conformed to his precepts, whilst my actions shamed its convictions ; yet I am certain the fear of rendering myself despicable in his eyes restrained me from the commission of many excesses, such is the ascendancy a wise and good mind must ever maintain over one fallen to guilt and folly. — But alas ! unhappily for me, his attention was now to be engrossed by nearer cares. Misfortune again spread her gloomy wings over his little dwelling and sat brooding on the ruins of his happiness : His amiable wife after a neglected cold, shewed evident symptoms of a rapid decline ; and thus threatened in his most tender part, he had no leisure to bestow on foreign objects.

The

The stripping myself of cash to supply Bloomford, was attended with inconveniencies I was not aware of. My course of dissipation daily encreasing, my expences encreased in proportion, and I was much streightened ; having too much delicacy to mention to Bloomford a grievance which might seem to imply a demand, and being equally fearful of applying to my father, my uncle, or Mr. Caveat, I became necessitated to contract debts. I met no difficulty in procuring credit, as I was known to be the only child of a wealthy man. There are too many trades-people, who are ready to supply the extravagance of young heirs on such occasions, but tho' I was thus assisted, yet current cash was indispenfably necessary ; the gaming table presented a ready resource, for a few nights I experienced the fortune of all young beginners, who are suffered to win to give them encouragement ; but one fatal evening, when flushed with success, I became divested of all caution ; I not only lost all my former gains, but found myself involved for £200.

Shock'd and terrified at this disaster, I imparted to Blomford my regret, and the dread in which I stood should the incident reach the ears of my father, from whose whole conduct I had not the least shadow of reason to expect indulgence or forgiveness,

forgiveness, Bloomford laughed at my childish terrors, as he called them, "curse the old curmudgeon your father (said he) what business have such fellows upon earth but to get money for us young ones; but come, since you are such a boy as to stand in awe of a greybeard I'll bring you to a good natured sort of person, who yesterday extricated me from a pecuniary difficulty."

Pleased with any prospect of delaying a discovery of my ill-conduct, I joyfully acquiesced in his offer, and was immediately conducted by him to the person he mentioned, in fine, I here entered into an agreement to pay 500l. when I became possessed of my father's fortune, and received the sum of 250l. out of which I paid twenty guineas to the lender, as a gratuity, and lent to Bloomford twenty more, so that after paying my gaming debts, I had but a meer trifle remaining.

Nor was this the only instance of folly to which I was led by my friendship for Bloomford. He had a mistress of whom he was extravagantly fond, and whom he had placed in elegant lodgings: She was very beautiful, but her temper was so outrageous that she kept him in a state of the most abject subjection.

He

He came to me one day with a look of the utmost perturbation, and informed me he was undone, unless my friendship induced me to assist him. " You are no stranger (said he) to the violence of my Belle's disposition, and her strong attachment to me. Judge then what will be the consequence if she should discover that the wife of an officer whom I brought away with me from Oxford, in her husband's absence, and whom he took from me and carried with him to Ireland, has again eloped from him and come to put herself under my protection.—I shall never be able to convince Belle I did not concur in this unfortunate business, unless you enter into a scheme I have devised, which will perfectly keep it from her knowledge. I instantly guessed from the concurrence of circumstances that the lady he mentioned must be the wife of Captain Mc. Cannon, with whom I had the rencontre at the inn in my journey to London, and on enquiry she proved to be the same. The scheme of Bloomford was to place her in a lodging at Islington, under pretext of keeping her the better concealed from her husband, and to tell her that on account of the severe disposition of his mother, on whom he was in a great measure dependant, she must pass for my friend, and he must assume my name whenever he visited her.

A moments

A moments reflection would have open'd my eyes to the egregious folly I should be guilty of in giving my assent to a contrivance which could not fail to criminate me, if the transaction should be divulged as the motive would remain unknown; but I never considered the matter, and consented without the least hesitation, inasmuch that Bloomford expressed his gratitude for my readiness to serve him, in the most exaggerated terms, and we went directly in a hackney coach to Islington, where he took an apartment for Mrs. Mc. Cannon, to whom he gave the appellation of Mrs. Townly, and announced himself by the same name to the people of the house.

The want of prudence is more frequently the error of unguarded, than of vicious minds, and yet no defect more certainly involves mankind in misfortunes, or renders the path of life more thorny and perplexed. But my hour for thinking was not yet come, and I proceeded in my career without foreseeing the ruin to which my actions tended.

C H A P. XVIII.

Masquerade Adventures.—A surprising Discovery.

I Returned to town in high spirits, and was set down at my uncle's, where Mr. and Miss Caveat and Letitia were already arrived to spend the day. The ladies had formed a party to go to the Masquerade under my protection that evening, and Mr. Caveat agreed to stay with the Baronet, and take a chearful glass till his hour for bed-time.

The *coup d'oeil* arising from the lights and decorations of the Pantheon, with the motley groups that crowded about us on our appearing, for some moments overpowered all our faculties, not one of our party had ever conceived any thing like it before, it being an entire new scene to us all. Long as Miss Caveat had been resident in the metropolis, some fifty years at least (though she acknowledged only thirty-two of them, wisely sinking the rest in - "That great gulf which nothing disembogues," - to which the poet refers us for lapsed time.) Long as this period had been in its revolution, she never attempted to venture

ture to a Masquerade ; always asserting it to be an improper amusement for people of sense and prudence.—But now instigated by a small degree of that principal which allured our first mother from the direct path ; and also proud of being enrolled in Lady Bruin's parties, she cast aside her antipathy and timid apprehensions, and seized her brother till he consented to let Letitia go under her care. Mark, gentle reader, though Letitia's gratification was the pretext, her own was the sole motive : in reality, she took ev'ry opportunity of thwarting her niece and myself, and gave us daily indications of that envious sentiment ascribed by the fabulist to 'the dog in the manger,' Having gained the consent of her brother, she exhausted her fancy in the choice of a character, and the invention of ornaments. And after much deliberation shone forth a Hebe, so bedizened with bugles, and spangles and tinsel, that when she made her appearance she became (according to her wish) an object of much observation to the company.

Lady Bruin was dressed as a Florentine Peasant, Letitia as a Shepherdess, and both attracted great notice by the elegance of their figures. Immediately on our entrance we were accosted by a thousand squeaking voices in the usual cant of such places,

places, all to the same dull purpose of "I know you;" "Do you know me?" which gave Miss Caveat room to expatiate on the folly of people's assuming characters unsuitable to them, and which they had not abilities to support. Her animadversions were delivered with so much arrogance and in such a sharp key, that many of the company besides her own party shared in them, and she was attack'd and teized without mercy. She made a gallant defence supplying in acrimony what she wanted in wit, until she repelled all those who had attack'd her, and elated by victory she made war in her turn. Observing a mask who was drest in a coat of mail, with a large horn hung over his shoulder and a small jar in his hand, she advanced to him, crying "Who have we here? a drunken huntsman I presume." "No (replied the mask) I am a Knight, my name is Astolpho*, and I am just come from the moon, whither I took a journey in quest of my friend Orlando's wits, I have them here inclosed in this jar." "A weighty cargo I suppose (said Miss Caveat) for I perceive you have left your own behind to enable you to bear the load of your friend's." "No truly, (said the mask) I threw mine away because I daily saw people live very well without being encumbered with any; aye, and talk very smartly too. You now are one instance.

* Vide Ariosto.

stance. I saw your wits in the Lunar Repository,
 as they were a very small parcel, I offered to
 bring them to you, but the keeper told me they
 were irretrievably lost to you, as you had bartered
 them for a cart-load of frippery and spangles."—
 This retort raised a loud laugh against Miss Caveat,
 who appeared to be quite discomfited, and flitted
 her fan in great trepidation, nor did her mortifi-
 cation stop at this; Astolpho's stricture on her
 drapery turned the observation of every body so
 much upon it, that they harrassed her almost to
 death with ridicule, and made her heartily wish
 herself ungoddesd and safe at home. I endea-
 voured to mitigate her vexation, lest she should
 by retiring, escape from a piece of innocent re-
 venge I had concerted against her in conjunction
 with Rymer, and diverted her until I espy'd him
 approach in the habit of Antolicius: He was fol-
 lowed by a croud to whom he distributed his wares,
 and sung his ballads with great applause. I im-
 mediately made him the appointed signal, and he
 disengaged himself as speedily as possible from his
 followers; and singling out Miss Caveat, ad-
 dressed her with the most profound respect, and
 attached himself to her during the remainder of
 her stay.

Letitia

Letitia now expressing a desire to dance, we joined a set of cotillon performers, and went through several dances, when this party broke up, a gentleman requesting her hand, for country-dances, I relinquished her to him, and hastened back to rejoin the ladies whom we had quitted. I perceived as I advanced, that my aunt had left her seat and was engaged in conversation with a gentleman in a superb Spanish habit.—I quickened my steps to join her, much surprized at her having separated herself from Miss Caveat, but how great was my astonishment on approaching unobserved by her, to hear her say, “ My Lord, this is no time or place to enter into particulars, but you will find my sentiments fully explained in this letter.” He took the billet which she presented, and with much agitation, cried “ My ever dear Eliza, when you condescended to come hither in pursuance of my entreaty, I hoped you would listen—” “ No more, my Lord, I intreat you—” (interrupted she.) “ If a passion the most faithful—” (cried he.) “ Nay (returned she) I must begone, I shall be missed by my companion else : Farewell,” With these words she quitted him precipitately, and he directly withdrew unto another apartment.

Never

Never was wonder greater than mine on this unexpected discovery. A woman so reserved in her deportment, so domestic in her inclinations as Lady Bruin seemed to be, to meet a man by appointment, to give him a letter with her own hand, and hear him avow a passion for her, was so surprizing that I was lost in amazement. I had often heard severe censures against women uttered by my thoughtless tavern friends, and this action of Lady Bruin's seemed to justify them all — “ If (said I) the most apparently amiable dispositions and estimable qualities can be thus assumed to disguise the worst principles, well may we believe the whole sex to be deceivers.” By this time her ladyship perceived me, and beckoned me to approach. She rallied me in a very lively stile for being plunged in such a deep reverie in a place never calculated for the indulgence of meditation. I made her an answer somewhat *distract*, at which she seemed surprized; but changing the conversation, she enquired where I had left Letitia: I told her I had resigned her to another partner, and come to pay my attendance on her ladyship; she thanked me for my attention, and bid me observe Miss Caveat.—“ She is so much engross'd with Autolicus (said she) that she has no eye nor ear for any one else;—for heaven's

ven's sake, Charles, find out who he is.—He has made love to her with the most romantic extravagance, and she has told him her name, and place of abode; nay, he just now prevailed on her to take off her mask to give him a view of the charms it concealed,—Poor Woman!—what an egregious piece of folly.” “Folly in woman is excusable (returned I) when she stops short of worse foibles, but few finish their career without transgressing all bounds.” Lady Bruin looked at me with much earnestness on my uttering this remark, “Charles (said she) beware of adopting common-place maxims, neither established in reason or experience. Opinions so ill-founded will infallibly be the destruction of your happiness, by forcing you into attachments for the unworthy, through despair of meeting estimable objects.” How easily (thought I) I might demolish this fine sentimental theory, by imparting my knowledge of her sententious ladyship's actions, but dissembling my chagrin, I changed the subject, and amused her with observations on the dresses and company till we were joined by Letitia, who complained of sudden illness, and was apparently so much indisposed that Lady Bruin proposed our leaving the Pantheon immediately.—Miss Caveat acceded to this with visible reluctance, and was led

led in triumph to her carriage by her obsequious admirer, who had successfully accomplished the predisposing steps of our plot laid against her. He took a respectful leave of her, and after setting down Lady Bruin at her house, we returned to Lincoln's-Inn Fields.

C H A P. XIX.

A serious Chapter.

I Arose after passing a sleepless night, as the incidents of the preceding evening had given so much employment to my reflections that I found it impossible to rest. I deliberated whether I should acquaint my father or my uncle with the discovery I had made, relative to my aunt's conduct; but after having long revolved the matter, I determined I would not mention any thing of it for some time, during which I would narrowly watch her proceedings, and endeavour to find out the object of her illicit affection.

Whilst I was absorbed in those grave reflections, Mr. Tropic, whom I had not seen for some days past, entered my apartment; and after the usual salutations and some conversation on ordinary matters, addressed me in the following terms.

“I hope Charles the friendship you have professed for me is more than merely nominal, and in that belief I am about to take a liberty with you, beyond that line of instruction, custom prescribes to persons of my employment.—I have

have for some time past with pain been an observer of your conduct, and it would be acting inconsistently with the sincere regard I feel for you, if I did not tell you my sentiments even at the hazard of incurring your resentment for what (if my motive was not taken into consideration) might be deemed an impertinent freedom."

"If (continued Mr. Tropic) your irregularities had been the effect of your original disposition, I should lament them in silence: but knowing your natural propensities to be virtuous and good, I wish to open your eyes to the dangers of the course into which you have unwarily entered.—While error proceeds from inadvertency it is not irreclaimable, but when it is, strengthened by habit, it becomes an irremediable evil.—Listen to me my dear young friend, with the seriousness and attention due to a subject the most important of any to your happiness.

"If dissipation invariably led to pleasure, there might be some pretext for pursuing it, but examine candidly and you will find it produces nothing but disgust and disappointment. The passions were implanted in the human mind by the great author of existence, for the wisest and most beneficent purposes, to impel mankind to ar-

duous and glorious pursuits, to give vivacity to action, and energy to virtue, they are to the soul what the air is to universal nature. Whilst that maintains its equipoise, it is the vivifying and healthful principle of things, but once forced from its balance, it overturns and destroys what it heretofore nourished and sustained ; nor is the earthquake or the hurricane more certainly productive of desolation in the visible world, than the irregularity of the passions is in the moral one.

“ Consider seriously the nature of man, reflect on his hopes and his views, and judge if a vicious conduct is more worthy of a rational being, or more likely to ensure his felicity, than a virtuous one. We all by an involuntary impulse feel an approbation for great and generous actions, and a contempt for base and mean ones, and these instinctive perceptions evince the natural bias of the human mind to rectitude. Every falling off from this great ruling principle is punished by self-condemnation and remorse, nor is it possible to stifle those sensations until a long continued course of depravity renders the mental feelings obtuse, and weakens the powers of the understanding.

“ Providence bestowed reason upon the human race to govern their actions. But besides the light

VOL. I.

H

which

which reason holds forth to illuminate the progress of man, heaven has given to you another still more unerring guide, I mean *revealed Religion*; in this divine code every precept is calculated to ensure the present welfare of man as well as his future felicity. Consider Charles that the Scriptures are not the dreams of fabling priests, or the frantic effusions of oracular superstition, but institutes which evidently bear the stamp of their sacred origin, by the superior wisdom of their construction, and their salutary tendency to the prosperity and happiness of society. Consider them as the dictates of that Creator whose glory tho' now seen thro' dim shades, will burst upon you hereafter in full splendor, from whose word creation sprung, and whose decree could instantly cause that creation to fade away.

“ Good with its attendant happiness—evil with its infallible consequence misery are placed before you; can you resolve to abandon the former and make choice of the latter; examine the inducements on each side, and then let impartial judgment determine. A time must come when all the riotous joys which charmed the hour of intemperance will be o'er, when the partners of those scenes shall be dispersed, some groaning over their ruined fortunes, or defaced reputations;

tions ; some rack'd with fierce bodily pains, the consequence of their excesses ; some tortured to madness by the scorpions of reflection, and many hurried by their follies, or (dire to think) by their own desperate hands to an untimely grave, there to lie totally forgotten by that world in which they centered all their views, or if recollected, remembered only to be execrated, or despised.

“ Compare this with the life and death of the virtuous man ; however humiliated by fortune or circumstance, nothing can rob him of that internal peace and sweet self applause which is more precious than all other earthly good ; he lives a benevolent and useful member of society, maintaining thro' life an intercourse with that great Being who rules the universe, by serving and loving him ; till call'd to a better mode of existence he leaves to posterity an unsullied fame and a bright example.

“ Do not, my dear Charles, look upon me as one of the four-temper'd moralists who disguise the beauty of virtue by dressing her in the garb of severity, who fruitlessly labour to bend the human heart to embrace a species of perfection gloomy and fierce, which disapproves every cheerful pro-

penalty of man, and with haughtiness demands sacrifices at once grievous and void of utility. I am on the contrary willing to grant every indulgence consistent with innocence and propriety. I only wish to awaken in your mind that degree of refined wisdom, from which we derive the sublime and beautiful in morals and manners—it is a system which speaks to the heart of man, establishes in his understanding the ideas of vice and virtue void of sophisms, and without freeing the passions from due subjection, gives them sufficient strength for every good purpose; it banishes evil prejudices, inculcates maxims at once simple and enlightened, and causes him to prefer that restraint which keeps him within the bounds of decency and decorum, to a liberty which leads to certain distress and ruin. There is no species of laudable pleasure withheld from the professors of this system: in reality, nothing which can give satisfaction to a rational mind. A mistaken idea of *pleasure* is the destruction of the greater part of mankind. *It* is incompatible with vice, *it* is inseparable from virtue. Consider the feelings of the votary of immorality, and say, can he be happy. Can the wretch who spends his hours in riot or intoxication, whose invention is employed in stratagems to corrupt innocence, or betray unsuspecting credulity, who violates the most sacred obligations

gations of society, by luring the daughter from the paths of affectionate duty, or the wife from those of maternal tenderness into the ways of infamy and destruction ? Can this sort of man who tramples on every bond held sacred or dear by the universal consent of ages, sit at ease amidst the havoc he has made ? No, his contentment is feigned, under that face of gaiety he wears a disturbed heart ; or, should he drown sensation in inebriety, it is but a temporary relief. Reflection pursues him to his most secret haunts, condemning the destroyer of the happiness of his fellow creatures to be the murderer of his own.

“ I love you Charles, with an almost parental affection ; your happiness and your fame are inexpressibly dear to me ; your extreme youth requires circumspection, and with surprise I perceive that he who naturally should be your guardian in this dangerous period of life declines the execution of the task. — On this account it behoves you to be convinced of the necessity of your strictly adhering to the rules of virtue and propriety ; it is rather an unfair deduction of the world to take the standard of a man’s character from his early conduct, whilst prudence is weak and passion is strong : Yet so it is, and according to the impressions you now make, you will be esteemed or otherwise,

otherwise, through life. Another consideration I wish to recommend to you, be assured you will never find one valuable friend or useful connection in the scenes of dissipation, the man who partakes with you in unjustifiable pursuits, wants the qualities requisite to form a permanent attachment; you are linked together only by present convenience, and the moment that motive ceases to actuate, the professions of kindness are forgot and the sense of obligation obliterated.

“ I have now my dear Charles laid before you some particulars of the situation to which your present scheme of conduct tends to bring you, and I trust your good sense will readily concur in awakening the convictions I wish to impress: Henceforth I shall be a silent observer of your proceedings, as I well know that the too frequent reiteration of remonstrances is despised by the vicious, and unnecessary to the virtuously disposed; but one plea I must urge, which is, that the sincerity of my wishes for your welfare entitle me to some degree of influence, and that the continuance of my regards depend upon the good use you make of the advice I have given you.”

My heart was deeply affected by this sensible and affectionate admonition of my worthy preceptor.

“ Never

“ Never (said I) my revered and beloved monitor, shall the lesson you have now given me be forgotten, never shall it cease to influence and direct my conduct : I see, I feel the unworthiness of my pursuits, but I will exert every effort to act better in future.—Do not withhold from me your salutary council, but condescend still to be my protector, my friend, my parent !”—

The worthy man was moved by this evidently heart-felt address. “ To the protection of that divine Being who has endued your mind with just propensities, (said he) I commit the guidance of your steps through the perplexing paths of life, that omniscient power which can shield you from every ill, and bestow you firmness to resist every temptation, and sustain every danger : my advice, my experience shall all be devoted to your service.—I am a poor man,—a man of many afflictions,—but I trust one sincerely attached to virtue and to truth.—I at this moment feel their celestial influence, upholding my heart amidst long suffering, and even giving it strength to encounter trials still more severe than it has already experienced. Yes Charles, I see my virtuous tender wife droop and fade with sudden decay.—Oh my Emily ! sweet soother of all my sorrows, the dreary and insatiate grave opens to receive thee ; thou wilt leave
me

me desolate and forlorn, but heaven is merciful, and soon will my oppressed spirit rejoin thee, to part no more."

The emotions he excited had now deprived me of utterance. I grasped his hand, and he quite overcome by his feelings, hastily broke from me, and quitted the house.

C H A P. XX.

Conclusion of Miss Caveat's Masquerade Adventure.

—A Billet Doux upon an entire new Construction.

MISS Caveat's bell had summoned the household to breakfast before I could rally my spirits in any tolerable degree. Gladly would I have been excused from paying my attendance, but dreading to exasperate a spirit not easily appeased, I descended and found the family assembled in the parlour. "See the effects of Masquerading (said my guardian on my entrance) 'tis now full two hours since our usual breakfasting-time, and here is Letitia pale as and spiritless as a culprit at bar, Charles rubbing his eyes, and as for your part sister, you look like one of the Bacchanalian Ladies." "Very civil, truly (returned she peevishly) every body does not see with your eyes, as you may chance to find: Pray Charles (continued she turning to me) do you know the person who personated Autolicus last night? he must be a man of taste and fashion, undoubtedly, by his air and address." "I answered I knew him not." No matter (said Miss

Caveat) we shall hear more of him I warrant." Her prophecy was instantly accomplish'd: A servant entered, and delivered a letter to her, which he said was brought by a person in a rich livery, and a hat trimm'd, with a red feather. "A mountebank vending his medicines, it is very likely (said Mr. Caveat) I hope sister you are not such a fool as to deal in their quack prescriptions, at your time of life, there is no dallying with health." Miss Caveat smiled; her smile, gentle reader, was not the smile of unaffected pleasure, not the smile of a worthy mind pleased with the praise of acknowledged merit, not the love-inspiring smile of youthful innocence, but one in which arrogance, malevolence, hatred, and contempt prevailed by turns; such a smile as I have seen at an auction playing on the countenance of an incensed Peerefs, when the vulgar wife of a rich Alderman has had presumption enough to outbid her in the purchase of an admired China jar, or some other article of expensive folly. "I am astonished brother (said she) how such a strange imagination could possibly occur to you, the letter I suppose is from a gentleman, perhaps the one we were just now speaking of, who singled me out at the Masquerade."

Mr.

Mr. Caveat now smiled in his turn and fix'd his eyes upon her with a look that required no explanation. Miss Caveat instantly comprehended its full meaning, and determined to urge her triumph to the utmost. She declared she was averse to all clandestine proceedings, and therefore requested her brother would open the letter and read it aloud for the benefit of the company. With this request he complied, and very gravely read as follows:

“ Madam,

“ When you condescended to comply with my entreaties in indulging me with a view of your face last night you might have perceived the emotion with which I was overpowered, but as you possibly misconstrued the motive of my visible discomposure; I think it necessary to give you a true idea of what I felt on the occasion, and shall open my heart to you with a sincerity uncommon to men who make love at first sight.

It was not surprize: It was not rapture: It was not admiration:—with which I was struck, when you graciously unveil'd your face.—No,—it was a sentiment more awful in its nature; it was veneration:—upon my honour, Madam, the visage of
Medusa

Medusa could not have more instantaneously petrified me, nor did the good Knight of La Mancha feel more chagrin when the afflicted matron Trifaldi displayed the ornament of her chin.

“ Do not, I beseech you, think this declaration too bold or premature, or discard a lover for his candour. A lady of your experience must be conscious, that altho’ the youthful and lovely of your sex without difficulty find enamoured swains to celebrate their sparkling eyes, ‘ vermillion tintured lips,’ and Grecian noses ; it is no easy matter for an antiquated Belle to find one who will extol the attractions of a physiognomy such as yours is. I remain,

Madam,

With all due deference,

and immutable respect,

your faithful and sincere admirer,

and most obedient humble servant,

— — —.”

Not Æronaut when the process for inflating his Balloon has failed.—Nor Minister when unexpectedly left in a minority, ever looked so amazed, so discomfited, so woe-begone as did Miss

Caveat,

Caveat, on the recital of this curious epistle. The exultation of gratified pride deserted her countenance, and was succeeded by an undecipherable expression of fury and repentment,—her lip quivered,—her whole frame shook, and the tea-cup drop'd from her hand to the ground, where it was shivered into a thousand glittering fragments, at length her words gain'd way. “ Some paltry jackanapes (said she) has assumed the character of a gentleman to vent his stupid spleen in a ridiculous jest; but I'll have satisfaction.”—

“ Sister (said Mr. Caveat) here is no assumption of a false character;—the letter is anonymous. Tell me not of anonymous (cried the incensed lady) I'll have the villain caned, hanged, torn in pieces, if there be justice or law in the land.” “ Although (said Mr. Caveat) it is the practice of the courts to carry on processes in the names of John o'Nokes, Peter Stiles, John Thrustout, *cum multis aliis*, no action will lie in this case, there being no instance whatsoever in which plaintiff institutes a suit against a nameless defendant, for where should we levy on recovery? therefore sister, the regular way of proceeding is, first to discover the name and place of residence of the offender, and you must be particularly careful to make no mistake in
his

his appellatives, for the insertion of Jeffery for Timothy, or Jonathan for Aminidab would non-suit,—nay, the wrong placing a single letter would set aside.—” “ Brother, brother, (interrupted Miss Caveat) you will absolutely drive me mad,—I tell you I must and will have redress.” “ In this case, sister (replied Mr. Caveat) I much fear you cannot obtain any, for there is neither common nor statute law provided against what is vulgarly denominated fun, under which head I believe we must register your *billet doux*.”

This last jest was quite too much for the equanimity of Miss Caveat. She started from her chair, vehemently exclaiming against the unnatural barbarity of her brother, and ran out of the room in a violent passion of tears.

Mr. Caveat examined Letitia and me with great strictness, to discover if we were concerned in this jest. Letitia who really knew nothing of the matter, solemnly protested her innocence; and I evaded the question, by observing the easiest method to ascertain the contriver of it, was to interrogate the servant who had been the bearer of the letter. But the servant (who in fact belonged to Rymer's patron the Colonel) had decamped

decamped the moment he had delivered the billet, and it appeared that the fates had decreed to bury the whole in obscurity, as no clue could be obtained to lead to a discovery of its author.

C H A P. XXI.

In which Rymer gives the History of a matrimonial Pursuit.

THE result of this affair serv'd to give a new turn to my spirits and relieve their depression. Rymer arrived immediately after the conclusion of the breakfast scene, to enquire the fate of his *billet doux*, and also to make me the confidante of a matrimonial plan, in which he was engaged, with a good sensible sort of a woman (he said) who did him the honour of being partial to him. I congratulated him upon his conquest. "Nothing very splendid (cried the lively disciple of Phœbus) the tender nymph bears no higher rank than that of a Bookseller's Widow; but Prior's Chloe was a Butcher's Wife, and Jean Jaques Rousseau married his fat Cook-maid:—My Dulcinea has a handsome house, a good capital and a well-established trade.—Miss Clackit has for ever cured me of my penchant for the "sweet passion of love," and the question is, whether it is wisest, discreetest and best for me to continue to pay court to the Booksellers, or by becoming one of their fraternity, take my
turn.

turn to tyrannize over poor devils of authors for the remainder of my days."

I enquired if he had consulted with Mr. and Mrs. Tropic, and being informed he had, and that they advised him to embrace the propofal, I alfo fignified my approbation, which I could perceive pleased him highly: "When my circumstances are no longer precarious (faid he) I fhall have better leifure to cultivate my mufe, I need not any longer hurry the labours of my brain to the prefs, to obtain a dinner, happy if I could ufher my little piece to the public with all its imperfections on its head, being generally too eager to eat to detain it for correction, as was fometime fince my fituation."

"Take care Rymer (faid I) wealth is an enemy to the exertions of genius; remember the fable of the poet and his patron." "Fear not (returned he) the love of fame will be an infallible incentive to my induftry, befides I fhall have fuch a good opportunity of publishing my works, that it will be a double inducement, for let me tell you Mr. Townly, it is a difcouraging circumftance to poetic ardour, when a man under the infpiration of the mufe has exerted his beft abilities to improve and entertain the world, to
find

find his efforts coldly received or totally disregarded ; whilst every romantic Miss who scribbles her common place novel, and every heavy Blockhead who writes an unmeaning treatise upon an uninteresting subject, finds no opposition from publishers, or dearth of readers." I enquired how his acquaintance with his intended bride came about. " By one of the most common accidents you can imagine (replied he) I went to the gallery at Drury-Lane, about a fortnight ago to see the new Tragedy, *entre nous*, it has not half the merit of mine which the managers refused.—I had scarcely taken my seat when an elderly woman and a well-looking young one placed themselves near me.—Impelled by that courtesy a man naturally feels for the amiable sex, I exerted my endeavours to make their situation agreeable, we conversed, laughed, and cried alternately.—And though there were few good things said amongst us, we all seem'd perfectly pleased.—About the middle of the Second Act a party entered, who disturbed all our satisfaction, by out-talking the Players and overwhelming us with an inundation of nonsense.—One of my ladies mildly remonstrated on the unreasonableness of their proceedings ; but in return was treated with contempt and insolence, and was told ' It might be well enough for people

ple who only see a Play on State-days or Holidays, to sit moping a whole night, but such like two-penny people were not to attempt to 'speak to people who were their betters, or to prescribe rules to people of fashion.' 'Fashion (returned the elder of my proteges) as if we did not know Molly Puffwell, Mrs. Frippery, the mantua-maker's journey-woman, I don't forget that you brought home the very gown Mrs. Vellum this moment has on, although you wear that umbrella-hat, and have left off your pattens.'

Mrs. Vellum now interfered and entreated her companion to be silent, and I hoped this skirmish would have terminated the war, but the hope was vain; for Mr. Minikin, a Pin-maker's 'prentice who that night had the honour of being admitted to attend Miss Puffwell to the Theatre; and who (after seating his party) had only step'd out to buy some fruit on the cheapest terms, now returned; to him the incensed beauty appealed; nor did she appeal unheeded, for (tapping Mrs. Vellum on the shoulder) he told her if she did not learn better manners, and behave more respectfully, he would be under a necessity of turning her out. Heyday, Mr. Pert (cried the companion of Mrs. Vellum) do
you

you think we were born in a wood to be scared by an owl?—Our money is as good as yours any day in the year, so do if you dare.’ This spirited retort seemed as distressing to Mrs. Vellum, as the affront which occasioned it; so to prevent any further altercation, I told Mr. Minikin that those ladies were under my protection, and that he should be answerable to me for every insult they received. He look’d angry, spoke of the ground behind Montague-house, and audibly whispered, “I should hear from him in the morning.” In return I presented him with a card on which my address was written, observing as he had forgot to enquire that particular, he might otherwise be at a loss, and that I would not fail to bring a sword and a cane to whatever place and at whatever time he should appoint. The fair ones whose cause I had espoused were very grateful; in fine, I was invited to dine with Mrs. Vellum next day. I continued her constant visitor, and took every opportunity of ingratiating myself in her good graces, till at last she expressed a desire to know something of my connections and pretensions in the world. I felt a strong temptation to rodomontade a little; but recollecting that truth seldom leads a man into inconveniencies than falsehood does, I did a round unvarnish’d tale deliver.

“She

* She lov'd me for the ills that I had past;
 * And I lov'd her, for she did pity me :
 so in a few days all preliminaries were adjusted,
 and I now have permission to bring a ring and a
 license."

I congratulated him on the happy catastrophe of his perilous adventure; and offered to go with him to pay my compliments to the bride elect immediately, but this he declined, and bid me postpone my visit, as he was obliged to hurry away on two businesses at present; one was to carry to the constable in whose house he had been confined, a discharge for his son, who in a fit of intoxication had enlisted with a recruiting party, and must have followed his colours as the captain refused to take money for his discharge, had not the indefatigable Poet thro' the interest of his friend the Colonel, obtained the young fellow's liberty: the other business was to carry to Mr. Tropic's a top for Henry and a wax-doll for Emily, which he had just purchased, and placed one in each pocket.

On his departure I returned to my own apartment, and seriously took into consideration the conversation I had had with Mr. Tropic that morning. The result of my reflections was,

a firm

a firm purpose of altering my conduct, and as much as possible avoiding all intercourse with Bloomford and my other dissipated connections. I could not determine to tell Bloomford my motives, still labouring under the influence of that false shame which is the most dangerous enemy of morals, indeed, there is no point should be more enforced by those who superintend education than the eradication of this evil weed, which chokes up the fairest flowers of the human mind, and exposes inexperienced youth wholly defenceless to encounter the force of false argument, ill-example, and the still more penetrating shafts of ridicule. The Preceptor should carefully inculcate that degree of firmness which enables men to assert their own sentiments, and convince his pupil that the worst species of cowardice is that of the dastard who betrays his best interests through fear of lessening himself in the eyes of those whose opinions he ought to despise.

C H A P. XXII.

*A Visit from Mr. Prig ;—Remarkable Alteration in
Letitia's Disposition and its Effects ;—Character
of Dr. Meanwell.*

FOR some days subsequent to this period, I firmly adhered to my resolution declining every engagement with Bloomford and his friends, who rallied me on absenting myself from their parties, and ascribed my change of manners to my being employed in some pursuit I was averse to their knowing of.

During this interval I received a visit from Mr. Prig, of whom I have hertofore made honorable mention ; that gentleman after congratulating me on the evident improvement in my air and address, informed me it was very probable I should soon be recalled, as my father gave some intimations of his having such an intention.

I replied it was the circumstance most agreeable to my wishes which could happen, and press'd Mr. Prig to give me his company at dinner, in
which

which invitation Mr. Caveat (who was present at our interview) warmly joined ; but Mr. Prig excused himself, saying, he was engaged to spend the day with a particular friend of his at Islington ; at the mention of Islington my countenance was suffused with a deep blush, my fancy instantly suggested that some unlucky chance may bring to his knowledge the lady who lodged there and who went by my name. Mr. Prig observed my confusion, and fix'd his eyes upon me with a look that seemed intended to scrutinize my very soul ; this encreased my embarrassment to such a painful degree, that I was glad when by taking his leave he put an end to my uneasiness.

My eyes were now for the first time opened to the disagreeable consequences in which I might possibly be involved by my criminal thoughtlessness and imprudence heretofore. E'er I had got rid of this unpleasing reflexion, I received some demands for small sums due to working people, and at taverns, which I had not money to discharge, and which added to my chagrin? in fine, the voice of self-condemnation was raised, and its clamour is not easily or readily silenced, as I found by experience.

Mr.

Mr. Caveat had not observed my embarrassment during our conversation with Mr. Prig, his whole thoughts being engrossed about Letitia, in whom a very alarming change had taken place ; her spirits had been visibly on the decline since the Masquerade, and now appeared totally sunk, which together with loss of appetite and rest, were symptoms sufficient to alarm her friends for her safety.

Mr. and Miss Caveat had closely interrogated Letitia on such a change in her deportment ; she strove to evade their enquiries, but being closely press'd, she attributed her lowness of spirits to illness ; on her making this declaration a Physician was called in, who gave it as his opinion that the young lady seem'd perfectly free from any bodily disorder, and only laboured under some secret uneasiness of mind, which medicine would not tend to remove.

Such was the decision of Dr. Meanwell ; it was rather an unlucky circumstance for Letitia, that a Physician of such great ingenuity should be pitched on in her case : but this gentleman was quite unskilled in the secrets that sometimes exalt a practitioner to a carriage, which like the armed chariot of the ancient war-

rior moves to mow down all in its course. He was in truth a man very badly calculated for rising in the world by any profession, for after having received in aid of great natural abilities, a learned and expensive education, he ruined all through want of address,—he could not cringe to proud men, or flatter blockheads, nor look alarmed when he saw no cause, or magnify insignificant symptoms in bombastic language. He was withal so impolitic, that the Apothecaries of his patients complained against the fewness and simplicity of his prescriptions, and unanimously agreed in decrying his judgment; but the Pharmaceutic order soon had ample revenge, for the patients themselves suspected that a Doctor who ordered so little for them was either ignorant or negligent, and he was accordingly dismissed after a few visits, and another called in his room, who took care not to injure himself by a similar practice.

The sentence he pronounced in Letitia's case set the brains of Mr. and Miss Caveat to work, to divine the latent cause, which they saw she was determined to conceal; but at length Miss Caveat, whose power over her brother's mind was much stronger than he was aware of, persuaded him she had discovered the secret. It is wonderful how frequently people suffer their understandings
to

to be governed by those whose abilities they despise,—in this instance it was not flattery established the lady's influence, for they pass their whole time in altercation and contradiction—nor was it an opinion of the goodness of her discernment, for her follies, and her oddities were his continual jest; yet, upon her suggestion, merely, he was convinced that the heart of his niece had fallen a victim to the tender passion, and that an affection she feared to reveal, was the source of her visible distress. The passion thus ascertained, it only remained to determine its object; and after much deliberation, Bloomford, whose person was remarkably handsome, was pronounced to be the conqueror of the fair Letitia's heart.

Although there is no person who has a higher respect for worthy and benevolent Old Maids than I have, I cannot help observing, that there are certain curious and talkative individuals belonging to the sisterhood, who by their proceedings bring much censure on this class of women, which is unjust when indiscriminate. The sagacity of these prying observers is peculiarly astonishing in attachments of the heart.—A thread more attenuated than that of the spider's web is a sufficient clue to wind them thro' all disguises into the inmost recesses of the minds of their young acquaintances, to

every lurking secret, and no Navigator who has discovered a country before unknown, is more eager to give the world a description of all he sees or conjectures, than the antiquated spinster is in promulgating the knowledge she has thus acquired.

But to take up the broken link of my narrative: The brother and sister being agreed on the matter, resolved to proceed accordingly. The first step they took, was to hold a consultation with Bloomford's mother, in which it was determined to marry him to Letitia, and they resolved to declare this intention to them both directly.

Miss Caveat's proceedings in this affair cannot be accounted for, without entering into a short investigation of her motives. The truth is, she would not have troubled her head to make a match for her niece, only she had an eye to her own interest. Finding her charms long neglected, and somewhat humiliated by the disastrous Masquerade adventure, she would have directly determined to encourage the addresses of Mr. Prosody, only she wisely considered that meer youth, beauty and merit are sometimes overbalanced by pecuniary worth, and being in hope that her brother meant to bequeath her a handsome portion of his fortune,

fortune, she judged the best and most speedy method to ascertain her pretensions to a more agreeable match than the pedagogue, was to hurry on an event which must produce a certainty of the division Mr. Caveat intended to make in the disposal of his wealth. Thus the marriage of Letitia became a necessary preliminary to her own.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXIII.

In which Letitia recounts her History.

BLOOMFORD, who never associated the ideas of marriage, and loss of liberty, and considered a wife merely as a being who was to bring him money made no opposition to his mother's will, when she proposed the intended marriage to him. He had ever look'd upon Letitia (lovely and agreeable as all acknowledged her to be) with the utmost indifference, but thought she would answer as well as any other to open to him the possession of his fortune, to which he had long eagerly look'd forward, and rid him of his mother's authority. His consent being thus signified with a readiness and submission, highly pleasing to the old lady, she informed him he might in future visit Miss Letitia by the approbation of her uncle and aunt, and declare his passion to her as soon as he thought fit.

Bloomford from motives unthought of by the rest of the parties, was more eager than any of them to hurry this affair to a conclusion.—He lost not a moment, but came with his mother in
her

her chariot directly to Lincoln's Inn Fields, and assured Mr. Caveat the prospect of felicity open'd to him in the view of an union with his amiable niece, made him the happiest of mankind, not forgetting to signify, the honor and satisfaction he should feel in being allied to such a truly respectable family. In fine, Mr. and Miss Caveat were highly pleased with him, and it was resolved he should wait on Letitia the next day, to avow his intentions, and obtain her consent.

That evening as soon as the servants were withdrawn after tea, Mr. Caveat paying me the compliment of saying he look'd upon me as one interested in the welfare of the family, and would therefore make no secret of their concerns before me, told Letitia of the treaty now in agitation, and bade her prepare to receive Mr. Bloomford as her future husband.

The pencil of Apelles could not do justice to the feelings expressed in the countenance of the unfortunate girl at this discovery.—“ Husband (cried she faintly echoing the last word of her uncle)—oh heavens !”—here utterance forsook her, and she fell back lifeless in her chair.

I flew

I flew to support and assist her, else she might have fallen to the ground, for her uncle seem'd transfix'd in surprise, and her aunt was employed in pouring forth a torrent of invectives against the poor insensible object of her resentment.—'There's for you brother' (said she) I was mistaken in ascribing to the forward minx an inclination that would have evinced some small degree of good taste and prudence. How could I be so egregiously wrong as to imagine any girl of the present age could judge or act with propriety. Some spruce Dancing-Master, some smart Footman, I warrant has struck Miss's fancy, and you have nothing to do but to provide a fortune to enable the young lady to follow her whim without subjecting herself to suffer any of the inconveniences her conduct deserves."

"No (said Mr. Caveat recovering from his astonishment) if my niece has been capable of acting so unworthily, I for ever disclaim her—she may beg, starve, die; before a single shilling of mine shall be appropriated to her use, or be lavished on her necessities."

Shock'd at the barbarity of this declaration, I could not help interfering, and said, as there was no shadow of an appearance to justify a censure

sure on the conduct of an amiable young creature, whose ill state of health rendered her rather an object of pity, than of severity; I thought it cruel to inflict punishment on her thro' a mere supposition of her having offended.

“ Oh yes to be sure Sir, (interrupted Miss Caveat) *you* no doubt are an advocate for disobedience, your own conduct requires more indulgence than I trust your father's wisdom will afford it, but let me tell you, you are not authorized to intermeddle in such nice points as the one now under consideration. I flatter myself my brother has too much good sense to suffer any person whatsoever to dictate to him in his own immediate concerns, or humiliate his acknowledged superior understanding, to be the dupe of striplings, or ungrateful wretches.”

The most eloquent harangue of Demosthenes or Cicero never was attended with stronger effect than this speech of Miss Caveat. “ No, (said her brother) I am not to be made a dupe as my sister says, I will not suffer any consideration to over-power my sense of propriety and justice, if my niece will not comply with my desire in accepting the hand of Mr. Bloomford. I hence-

forth disclaim her as an alien to my blood, and an outcast from my fortune."

Letitia now recovered from her state of insensibility, but immediately after, fell into strong hysteric fits, insomuch that her inhuman aunt was compelled to cease from her unfeeling persecution, and assist in having her conveyed to her apartment, and the proper remedies administered, after which the unhappy girl was left to her repose.

Shock'd at this scene I retired to my own apartment, and after some reflections on an event so unexpected, took up a new book and read for some hours, till the family were retired to rest. On my awaking about six o'clock the next morning, I heard a soft tap at the door of my chamber. I immediately opened it, and perceived one of the maid-servants, who delivered to me an unsealed billet from Letitia, requesting an immediate interview with me in one of the parlours. I directly followed the messenger, and found my amiable young friend waiting for me.—

"Oh Charles (said the sweet girl on my entrance) what obligations do I owe to your friendship—you do not abandon the poor Letitia in the hour of distress."—

I gave

I gave her every assurance of my wish to serve her to the utmost of my abilities. "I believe your declarations (said she) and will rely on your sincerity. I will open my whole agonizing heart to you, you shall be a brother to her that is destitute of a friend, or a protector."—

"Dear Letitia (replied I) look upon me as a brother indeed, as one who sincerely wishes to make you happy."

"I do, I do (exclaimed she) hear then the particulars of my unhappy story; and oh (if you can) assist the wretch whose credulity has undone her.—

"My father (said she) resided at Lyndhurst, he was the best minded of men,—but thro' an unhappy friendship for a deceitful and unworthy person, for whom he was security to a considerable amount, he lost almost the whole of the produce of a life of industry. My mother, a very amiable woman of a remarkably delicate constitution, sunk under the consequences of this ill-placed confidence of my father in a false friend, and I lost the benefit of her guidance at the time it was requisite for fixing the tenor of my future life.

"On

“ On her death I was placed by my father at an eminent boarding-school in the town where we lived ; he through the interest of some of his friends obtained a post in the Revenue, which enabled him to support the rank of a gentleman, but in consequence was obliged to go and reside in the district to which he was appointed, which was at a good distance from the school where I was placed.

“ E’er I had been long in this situation, my uncle Caveat came down on some law business, and saw me for the first time ; he was much pleased with my appearance, publicly declared I should be the heiress of his possessions, and bade my governess draw on him in future for all my expences.

“ From this declaration I may date my misfortunes ; in about three months afterwards a young Officer, Nephew to my Governess, came to pay her a visit ;—he seemed attached to me, and I was really so to him—to the most pleasing exterior he joins the most winning sweetness of deportment, and politeness of manners : he soon declared a passion for me, and I destitute of experience, and bereft of the advice of a parent or friend on such an interesting occasion, gave
way

way to the dictates of my inclinations, and encouraged his addresses.

“ Having brought me to this concession he told me that as he had no fortune at present, and that mine was only precarious, entirely depending on the favour of my uncle ; it would be highly imprudent for us to think of marriage under such circumstances. He therefore proposed our entering into a written engagement, binding ourselves down never to marry unless we married each other.

“ Sway'd by the impulse of sincere tenderness, I acquiesced without hesitation, and signed a contract he had drawn for the purpose.—His leave of absence being expired, he returned to his regiment, I saw him depart with regret, but this soon gave place to a more affecting distress.—My father died suddenly, and as he left only a bare sufficiency to discharge his debts, I was thrown a dependant upon my Uncle's bounty.—I will not enter into a recapitulation of my feelings on this event, suffice it to say that I was soon after ordered by my uncle to his house in London, and came accordingly.

“ I could

" I could not correspond with my betrothed husband, thro' fear of detection; but soon after my arrival he found means to inform me, he was in town, and requested an interview the next day the house of his sister in Tavistock-street.

I contrived a stratagem to elude my aunt's vigilance, and went to the place he appointed; on my entrance I found him with a lady whom he introduced to me as his sister; never was honor or tenderness more strongly depicted than in his conduct. He told me that his regiment was ordered to Gibraltar; but not being able to leave me until he had legally intitled himself to 'a claim on her who so entirely possessed his heart,;' he had entreated a friend of his who was in clerical orders, to unite our hands privately, and hoped I would give my consent for that purpose.

" Shock'd at taking such a material step unauthorized by the sanction of my friends approbation, I hesitated and was overwhelmed with confusion." Oh heavens (said he) were then all my flattering hopes illusive?—does she in whom my heart placed all its views of happiness abandon me to endless regret and despair. Ungrateful Letitia, soon will my death rid you of an engagement

engagement it is evident you wish to be freed from, for I can never survive the probability of losing you."

"No (replied I) your Letitia can never through any consideration of her own welfare, inflict one painful feeling on your mind, I agree to your proposal, altho' I am conscious that in so doing, I subject myself to innumerable disagreeable circumstances. You I have agreed to receive as the arbiter of my fate, and as such I submit to you.

"He appeared visibly affected by this declaration, which he vowed I never should have cause to repent; we were married in the presence of his sister, who, as he informed me, was the wife of an officer also quartered at Gibraltar, whither she was then going with him.

"About this time you arrived in town, and your friendship and society greatly assisted in the re-establishment of my spirits. My acquaintance with your aunt too afforded me much pleasure, so that my mind would have been tolerably easy, but that I was kept in total ignorance

rance of my husband's situation ; for tho' at parting he had promised to let me hear from him, by directing under cover to his agent, where I have frequently sent, I have never received a single line since his absence ; you can easily judge of my uneasiness in consequence, but I still struggled against appearance, and attributed his remissness to every cause but neglect, until the night of the Masquerade, when, you may remember, you gave me up in the dance to a gentleman who ask'd to be my partner. This gentleman in a gallant way regretted the interruption my mask gave to his beholding the face belonging to such an elegant form as mine. Altho' (said he) I am come from the land of veils, I never hated one of them so heartily as I do that envious cloud which throwds your beauties. A Spanish cavalier, I presume (said I laughing.) No faith, said he, an Englishman, but during the time I have been quartered at Gibraltar, I made frequent excursions to the Spanish territories, where tho' their women is all they have worth looking at, they are so ill-natured as to seclude them from view. At his mentioning Gibraltar, a thought struck me that I had now a good opportunity of learning some intelligence of my husband. I accordingly asked him if he was acquainted with Captain Surface ? Sur-
face

face (said he) oh intimately, he is a happy fellow every where,—but I do not envy him his late splendid conquest half so much as for being the object of your enquiries.

‘ I told him Mr. Surface was a near relation of mine, and beg’d he would inform me what was the conquest he alluded to?’ ‘ Why, (returned he) Lady Betty Rivers who came to Gibraltar on a visit to her sister, the wife of General G ———, who is in a bad state of health, has given him her hand, and made him master of a fortune of £30,000. besides her jointure of £3000 per annum.

‘ The stroke of death could not have astounded my soul as did this piece of information. A damp dew chilled my limbs, utterance forsook me, I trembled in such a degree that my partner was alarmed, and requested I would permit him to lead me to my party, which with some difficulty I rejoined.

“ Oh Charles, was not this heart-rending intelligence enough? Deceived by him in whom I had placed all my hopes of happiness; forsaken by the object of my tenderness, duped and undone, might I not be permitted to sink
without

without further molestation to that grave where alone I can find a cure for all my miseries: was it necessary to persecute me to give away this wretched hand, already fettered by an indissoluble bond; for never shall my faithless husband's breach of vow cause me to forget the sacred obligation I have sworn . . .

C H A P. XXIV.

A busy Day's Adventures.

HERE the afflicted Letitia finished her tale, and I immediately exerted every effort of argument and persuasion to moderate her sorrow. I told her she ought not to place an implicit reliance on the report of a stranger, who probably invented the detail which had given her so much distress, and that I would go that very morning to the agent of the regiment to which Captain Surface belonged, to enquire into the authenticity of the story, and also exert my utmost influence with Bloomford, to discontinue his addresses, and leave her at liberty.

She thank'd me with tears of gratitude, and then promised to comply with my entreaties in endeavouring to compose her mind.

Being engaged to attend Rymer's nuptials at nine o'clock, I called on Mr. Tropic, and went with him to the appointed church, where we met the Bride and Bridegroom, two gentlemen
friends

friends to the Lady, and also the Heroine who had signalized herself in the gallery adventure, who was Aunt to the late Mr. Vellum; we there saw the matrimonial knot tied between the Poet and the Widow. The Bride seemed much confused by the glances and whispers of the congregation, and Rymer whispered me he hoped his little landlady's heart would feel no disturbance on this occasion; from church we adjourned to the bride's house; and partook of an elegant breakfast; but I declined joining the joyous party at dinner, as I was resolved to devote myself entirely to the service of Letitia, and took my leave soon after.

From hence I directly proceeded to the house of Capt. Surface's Agent, who confirmed every syllable of the account Letitia had heard at the Masquerade, and added, that he had received a letter from the captain, desiring him to dispose of his commission, as he intended returning immediately to England, Lady Betty not chusing his longer continuance in the army.

My doubts being now converted into the most mortifying certainty, I resolved to go to Bloomford to prevail on him to withdraw his addressee. I found him at home, and after some cursory conversation

conversation imparted my request, to which he listened with a coldness that indicated it would be unsuccessful. I urged him in the strongest terms; I told him the heart of Letitia never could be his, and conjured him by every consideration of humanity, and by the friendship he profess'd for me, not to join in a persecution which must in the end prove fruitless.

“ Charles (said he) I certainly would do every thing in my power to oblige you, but this is impossible. I have already given my promise to my mother, and agreed with the Lady's friends; but putting these matters out of the question, by declining this marriage I should not only be deprived of the immediate supply the girl's ready money would bring to my necessities, but also disoblige my mother so highly that she would stint me more than ever. The thing is therefore nonsense, and absolutely out of the question.”

Finding it would be to no purpose to place generosity of sentiment in opposition to self-interest in this case, I changed my plea; and endeavoured to dissuade him from his purpose by suggesting that the consequences of his marrying Letitia would be an eternal breach with his favorite Bell, as it was probable she
would

would never forgive his desertion.—Oh, as for that matter (returned he) Bell is not such a fool as to imagine my taking a wife can weaken my attachment to her—as soon as the mummerly of this intended wedding is over, Bell and I will take a trip to the Continent, where we will figure away with more eclat than ever.—But will this be treating your wife properly? (said I.)

Ha! ha! ha! Where the D---I have you got such old-fashioned notions? (replied he) You say Letitia's heart is engaged: to yourself perhaps (for I don't think you wou'd be so silly as to turn champion in support of her caprices unless you had an interested motive) if so I think both she and you have no reason to be displeased at her marrying a man who will prove in every sense of the word a fashionable husband, and leave her at full liberty to do as she pleases.

I now found the words of Mr. Tropic relative to friendships formed on any other basis than the solid one of virtue, fully verified. I plainly perceived Bloomford's attachment to me was perfectly subservient to his convenience, and that when my opinions differed from his, they were held by him to be ridiculous and contemptible—

As

As I saw it was in vain to urge him further, I arose to depart, but he begg'd I would repeat myself till he should tell me a curious adventure.

"Mrs. McCannon, alias Mrs. Townly, (said he) finding herself thoroughly disgusted with rural retirement and village simplicity, wrote to me to request I would get her a residence in town. Alarmed at her resolution I went to wait upon her with intent to try to dissuade her from quitting Illington, and I found her in the greatest trepidation imaginable. She had been much terrified by a snug looking rogue dressed in canonicals, who (whether enamoured of her beauty or employed by her husband) had been making particular enquiries about her, from the people with whom she lodged."

I trembled at this description which so well suited Mr. Prig; but suffered Bloomford to proceed without interruption.—This little Parson, (continued he) threw out several strange innuendos, said that people were not always what they appeared to be; that he had the honor of knowing the lady's *husband* very well; and wished to be introduced to her. He had the effrontery to send her a message to this purpose, and on her positively

tively declining to see him, decamped with apparent reluctance, muttering that she should speedily hear from him again. I arrived in the height of the perturbation occasioned by this incident, and found the whole household in an uproar. The proprietors of the mansion said they were very unfortunate in having taken any one of suspicious reputation for a lodger, as it would ruin the credit of their house, and Mrs. Mc Cannon enraged at their assurance in doubting of her virtue, and terrified at the thought of again falling into her husband's hands, flew at me in a fury, and insisted on my removing her from thence directly. I never thought I could have been frightened by a woman's tongue, but that of my Roxalana was so well hung that it rung a peal in my ears, which put my courage to flight, and I very submissively placed madam and her band-boxes in the carriage which waited for me, and drove towards town: All the way I was considering how I should dispose of her, and at length a thought struck me, and I ordered the coachman to carry us to a private madhouse in ——— street, where I left her, giving the Keepers a sum sufficient to defray her expences for one month, in which time I believe she will be pretty much out of conceit with lodgings of my providing, I told her on taking leave that the people of the house

were

were friends of mine who would be very civil to her, and that I would call on her to bring her away as soon as I had provided a better place to receive her. I then took (I trust) a last farewell of a termagant, who had long ceased to please me, and was a heavy burthen on my hands."

Gracious God (cried I) is it possible you cou'd use a wretch, whose crime was occasioned by her unfortunate partiality for you, thus inhumanly? 'I do not thank her for what you stile her *partiality* (replied he haughtily) her own inclination directed *that*, and I owe her no obligation whatsoever; but as you seem fraught with all the sublime sentiments of knight-errantry, you cannot do better than fly to the succour of this distressed matron, and try if you can prevail on her to transfer her *partiality* to you, in reward of your heroic generosity.'

I will not Bloomford (said I rising) retort your sarcastic reflexions with the insult they deserve. I still look upon you as a man who has been my friend; and hope, when next you meet a companion who regards you sincerely as I *did*, you will treat him in a more grateful and becoming manner.—Farewell—

I quitted Bloomford's house directly, and went to Lincoln's-Inn-fields, Letitia was confined to her apartment, from whence she had orders not to stir until she should be called down to meet Mr. Bloomford, who was expected every moment.

Judging it would be in vain to seek an opportunity of speaking to her, I wrote a detail of the steps I had taken relative to her affairs, and the event of my enquiries and proceedings; this I gave to the girl who had brought me her billet the preceding night, and I then took a coach and directly drove to the mad-house where Mrs. Mc Cannon was confined.

C H A P. XXV.

*A Visit to a Mad-House.—And Mrs. Mc Cannon's
Enlargement.*

ON my arrival at the mansion of distress, I was shewn into an elegant drawing-room, where a well-dress'd lady sat at a harpsicord, carelessly turning over the leaves of a music-book. I concluded I had made a mistake in the direction, and been driven to a wrong house ; but on enquiring for Mr. Strict, the lady informed me he was at his office, and rang for a servant whom she ordered to call him from the wards.

In answer to the enquiries I made, from this gentleman (at such intervals as his hurry of business would allow him to attend to me) I could not obtain the least intelligence of the lady I look'd for ; no person of the name of Mc Cannon or Townly was under his care. I then demanded permission to see all the women who had been placed there within the preceding month, and finding him averse to complying with my requisition, I insisted on it with some threats

of applying for a legal authority to satisfy myself of the lady's safety, if he persisted in refusing to produce her.

Alarmed at the thought of having his mansion laid open to inspection, or pointed out as a subject of public attention, he directly changed his mode of behaviour, and with great civility assured me he would do every thing in his power for my satisfaction; he look'd over his books and told me only two women had been admitted within the time I specified, to both of which he would forthwith attend me.

I followed him to the inner wards, and shuddered as I passed along, at the mingled sounds of agonizing shrieks, clanking chains, and frantic ravings.—Anon, the wild bursts of merriment saluted my ears; which were soon succeeded by sighs audibly sent from breaking hearts.

At length my conductor unlocked the door of a narrow and dark cell, where a woman wan and emaciated, but who retained strong vestiges of former beauty, sat on some scattered straw; she started up wildly on our entrance, and running to me, cried “Oh Henry you are come at last,—how could you leave me so long?—hush, hush—

hush—perhaps they may hear us ;—but ha !—how pale you look—yes—I know it all—the wind blew loud—the billows raged—see, see—they close over your head—oh Henry, why did you go to sea !”—over-powered by her feelings she cast herself on the earth, and I, with an aching heart, followed her keeper to another cell.

In this wretched inclosure sat a woman in profound cogitation ; the noise we made on our coming in aroused her, and waving her hand with solemnity, she bade us stand off, “ do not spoil my garland (said she) I have cull’d every sweet of the spring to strew on my lovely boy, see, here is his grave—he was all my comfort—his father went down from me into that dreary vault before him, and I had nothing left—soft, I beseech you, don’t disturb them—how quietly they sleep—oh ! when shall I sleep too ?

I retreated from this distressing object, and my conductor securing the door of her inclosure, with all the *sang froid* of a heart incapable of being affected by such woes, told me, these were the only women received into his house within the time I had mentioned, and that I saw nei-
ther

ther of them answered to the description I had given of her I sought for.

As I had no pretensions for urging my enquiries further, I was on the point of telling him I was satisfied, when I heard the name of Bloomford! called from an adjacent cell. I stopp'd directly, and demanded to be admitted into it, saying, that the person there confined was the object of my search.

My conductor hesitated very much, assured me the lady there immured had been under his care a long time for an outrageous phrensy, which was always encreased on her seeing strangers. 'You seem to be a tender-hearted young gentleman (continued he) and would not, I am certain wish, thro an idle curiosity, to enhance the sufferings of this unhappy woman, which undoubtedly would be the consequence of your seeing her, as she must be treated with unusual severity on a new paroxysm of her frenzy :"' Again the voice called on 'Bloomford,' and thus confirmed in my belief, the eloquence of my guide was exerted in vain. I called aloud, and bade the prisoner tell me her name, she replied, 'Mc Cannon,' and Mr. Strict finding it vain to oppose me after this detection of his falsehood,

fallhood, opened the door of the cell, where Mrs. Mc Cannon sat very securely wrapt up in a strait waistcoat.

On our entrance, Mr. Strict started and look'd surpris'd, and turning to a man of his who attended us, exclaim'd, who have we here ? is not this the cell into which I ordered Mrs. Erysford to be removed ?— Your pardon, Sir (said the man) Mrs. Erysford was removed to No. 6, when you were in the country, with Dr. Dispatch ; and this is a woman who was brought at that time, of which I thought the Clerk had informed you.' This tale, evidently trump'd up to serve the turn, was received by Mr. Strict with much displeasure. He exclaimed against the carelessness of the Clerk, and all his other domestics, and hoped I would not form a bad opinion of his conduct which had been the consequence of believing his orders had been fulfilled. I interrupted him, and made him perfectly easy by assuring him I had no doubts on that head ; which, though an equivocal expression, he thought proper to take in the sense most favourable to his wishes.

In his presence I proceeded to talk with Mrs. Mc. Cannon, and he affected to appear much surpris'd.

ther of them answered to the description I had given of her I sought for.

As I had no pretensions for urging my enquiries further, I was on the point of telling him I was satisfied, when I heard the name of Bloomford ! called from an adjacent cell. I stopp'd directly, and demanded to be admitted into it, saying, that the person there confined was the object of my search.

My conductor hesitated very much, assured me the lady there immured had been under his care a long time for an outrageous phrensy, which was always encreased on her seeing strangers. ' You seem to be a tender-hearted young gentleman (continued he) and would not, I am certain wish, thro an idle curiosity, to enhance the sufferings of this unhappy woman, which undoubtedly would be the consequence of your seeing her, as she must be treated with unusual severity on a new paroxysm of her frenzy :'' Again the voice called on ' Bloomford,' and thus confirmed in my belief, the eloquence of my guide was exerted in vain. I called aloud, and bade the prisoner tell me her name, she replied, ' Mc Cannon,' and Mr. Striſt finding it vain to oppose me after this detection of his falshood,

fallshood, opened the door of the cell, where Mrs. Mc Cannon sat very securely wrapt up in a strait waistcoat.

On our entrance, Mr. Strict started and look'd surpris'd, and turning to a man of his who attended us, exclaim'd, who have we here ? is not this the cell into which I ordered Mrs. Erysford to be removed ?— Your pardon, Sir (said the man) Mrs. Erysford was removed to No. 6, when you were in the country, with Dr. Dispatch ; and this is a woman who was brought at that time, of which I thought the Clerk had informed you.' This tale, evidently trump'd up to serve the turn, was received by Mr. Strict with much displeasure. He exclaimed against the carelessness of the Clerk, and all his other domestics, and hoped I would not form a bad opinion of his conduct which had been the consequence of believing his orders had been fulfilled. I interrupted him, and made him perfectly easy by assuring him I had no doubts on that head ; which, though an equivocal expression, he thought proper to take in the sense most favourable to his wishes.

In his presence I proceeded to talk with Mrs. Mc. Cannon, and he affected to appear much surpris'd.

surprized at the developement of her adventure, assuring me he was greatly indebted to me for the timely discovery of such a contrivance to impose on him :—‘ Tho’ (added he) when I came to see and examine the nature of the lady’s complaint I could not have been deceived.’ ‘ Faith Sir, (interrupted his attendant) the lady was in such a woundy passion that she might have passed for a mad-woman on the whole College of Physicans, and, until that dress secured her properly, it would not have been a very safe or easy matter to examine her.’ Mrs. McCannon look’d very much provoked at this detail, but through fear dissimbled her resentment, and at my desire was immediately released from her fetters, and accompanied Mr. Strict and me into the drawing-room where I had been first introduced.

Mr. Strict told me that as he could not answer for the setting any person entrusted to his care at liberty, without first acquainting those who had placed them there, he desired he would give him a direction and he would send to the gentleman we mentioned, I thought this reasonable, and Mr. Strict wrote directly to Bloomford, acquainting him of the arrival of a friend

a friend of the lady to demand her, and expressing much surprize at her having been placed under his care, as she had not the least symptoms of insanity.

The hour for dining now drawing on, Mr. Strict entreated we would honour him with our company at a family repast. I complied, being determined not to leave the house till I brought away my fair prize;—the family repast consisted of the most luxurious delicacies of the season, and no person who had seen the elegance that furrounded us, could imagine that the same roof covered wretches labouring under the worst species of distress.

Mr. Strict's messenger at length returned and brought a letter for that gentleman, purporting that the woman Mr. Bloomford had placed at his house was a poor creature he met by accident, who had followed him on his way to town, and looking on her as an object of compassion he had advanced some money to have her taken care of, till some of her friends could be discovered and applied to, but that since any one appeared to protect her, he had no sort of objection to her enlargement.

This impudent falshood was near reducing Mrs. Mc Cannon in reality to that state in which Bloomford pretended to think her, but she was at length pacified, and we departed in a Hackney-coach, to seek a lodging, where she might be placed till further consideration.

I stopped at the first decent looking-house on which I perceived a bill, and here depositing my charge in safety, I hastened to Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, anxious to know something of Letitia's proceedings.

C H A P. XXVII.

Proceedings of a female Politician.—An Elopement.

THE intelligence I of necessity sent to Letitia, had tended to encrease her distresses and incapacitate her still more for the interview with Bloomford, but it was in vain she pleaded her being too ill to leave her chamber, she was compell'd to go to the drawing-room and receive his visits, with every threat of unkindness and indication of severity.

On being left alone with Bloomford, she made one effort to gain him over to her wishes, and induce him to cease his addresses: he appeared much chagrined, and immediately withdrew, but it was only to join the seniors, who were assembled in the parlour, waiting the result of this conversation.—To them he imparted the mortifying repulse he had met with from the young lady, and said he was a very unfortunate man, to be betrayed by delusive hopes into all the pangs of an unsuccessful passion. Incensed beyond all bounds at this eclaircissement,
Mr.

Mr. Caveat swore in the most tremendous manner that the refractory wretch should comply with his will, and gave Bloomford an assurance that she should be irrevocably his in less than three days. Satisfied with this confirmation of his desire, the artful and unfeeling young man took his leave, and Mr. and Miss Caveat flew to the victim of their cruel obstinacy, to load her with new reproaches, and terrify her with new threats.

On learning these particulars I was exceedingly distressed, and finding Letitia too closely watched to be able to hold any correspondence with her, I went to Portman-square in order to acquaint my Aunt with the state of affairs in our household, and take her advice on our proceedings, but I had the mortification of hearing that the family were gone to spend a week at Southampton, where my Uncle wished to be present during the races.

But whilst I was thus employed, a wonderful alteration of affairs had taken place at Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, Mr. Caveat in pursuance of his resolution of expediting the marriage, had sent for an attorney to draw up the settlement directly; and Miss Caveat to her great mortification

tion found that besides advancing 10,000*l.* on the wedding-day, he was determined to settle the whole of his fortune on Letitia, excepting only a very moderate annuity which he reserved for her use, in case of her surviving him.

A disposal of his effects so contrary to the inclination and the interest of Miss Caveat, wrought an instantaneous revolution in her sentiments, she changed sides with as much ease and expedition as a thorough placed courtier or saleable patriot, and deserting her brother's cause totally, determined to assist her niece, in setting his authority at defiance.—But deeply read in the wary conduct of profound politicians, she wisely resolved to conceal her manœuvres, and set all her puppets to work without appearing on the stage, until she knew the success of her machinations.

To effect this, she summoned to her presence, the same female domestic who had assisted in the correspondence Letitia had held with me, and whom she observ'd to be much attach'd to Letitia and favoured by her:—"Shut the door, Kitty, (said she, as the girl entered the room) I am ill,—very ill indeed,—my brother's severity to this poor young creature will be the death of

me :

me : I joined with him in attempting to *persuade* her, but to assist in *compelling* her to marry a man she hates, heaven forbid, I should do such a cruel thing."

" Marry and amen, Madam, (cried Kitty) it is a sad thing to be cross in love, I am sure I pity Miss Letitia from the bottom of my soul."

" My brother will have her married to Mr. Bloomford to-morrow morning if he can find her above ground (said Miss Caveat.)"

" By my faith then, Madam (replied Kitty) if I was Miss Letty, I'd shew him a trick he little dreamt of."

" Why girl (replied Miss Caveat) what in the name of wonder could you do?"

" Do Madam, (said Kitty) I'faith, I'd play least in sight, I'd scamper off to the lad I liked best, and let my Uncle fret and fume till he was tired."

" Wicked creature (cried Miss Caveat) and yet I don't know, if my niece did withdraw for
a little

a little time, but it would be a good expedient; his passion might subside upon consideration:— But Lord, how can I listen to your wild suggestions; go to Letitia, and try to comfort the poor child.—I am forbid all intercourse with her, and do you hear, Kitty, bid her prepare for this marriage, for there is no possibility of her avoiding it, if she is within reach of her Uncle by this time to-morrow, and be sure not to mention a syllable of what we were saying.”

Kitty departed, and (according to the design of Miss Caveat) repeated the whole conversation, with many exaggerations, to Letitia, in fine, she told her, her Aunt advised her to elope, and that as speedily as possible, for that Mr. Bloomford was expected every moment, and the ceremony would be performed directly.

Driven almost to frenzy by this intelligence, Letitia wildly broke from her chamber, and rushed into her Uncle's study where she threw herself at his feet and entreated him to take compassion on her, and desist from compelling her to a measure infinitely more dreadful to her than death:—Irritated by this application he used her with the utmost harshness and violence, and finally took a solemn oath to disown her for ever
if

if she persisted in her refusal, sternly bidding her quit his sight, for he would never again behold her face, till she was the wife of Bloomford.

Finding every endeavour to soften his obduracy fruitless, she arose and retired from her Uncle's presence. The most gloomy despair took possession of her soul. She instantly formed the desperate resolution of leaving her persecutors, and throwing herself upon the mercy of a world in which she was wholly inexperienced; the tacit connivance of her Aunt, and the officious folly of Kitty, assisted in the accomplishment of her design, and she had left the house some time before her elopement was discover'd by any of them.

C H A P. XXVII.

A curious Specimen of Gratitude.

ON my return home I found the household in the greatest confusion, messengers dispatched every way in search of the fugitive : Mr. Caveat in the utmost distress, and his sister, by turns weeping for the fate of her degenerate niece, and exclaiming against the undutifulness and depravity of the young people of the age.

I directly offered my assistance, as I wished for a plausible pretext to be at liberty to search for her ; my offer was thankfully received, and I prepared to pursue her.

Kitty on seeing me visibly afflicted and alarmed, contrived an opportunity of speaking to me. — ‘ Good God, Sir (said the poor creature) what can have become of my dear young lady ? I fear it was my folly that caused her to run away, but I’m sure, only I thought that she and your honour were to be married, and that she would

would go to you as soon as she left this, I wou'd have cut my tongue out sooner than I'd have told her of her aunt's advice." She then repeated to me the particulars of the conversation she had had with Miss Caveat, which was evidently calculated to encourage Letitia to take a step, whose rashness must render her uncle's resentment irreconcilable.

I begg'd of Kitty not to mention any thing relative to my interview or correspondence with her young lady. She promised to comply with my desire, and I departed in quest of my fair friend, but my search was in vain. A week elapsed and all the efforts of the family were fruitless, no trace of the unfortunate Letitia could be discovered, so that at length the pursuit was relinquished in despair.

This disappointment weigh'd heavily on my spirits ; my friendship for Letitia was truly sincere ; the innocence of her heart and the sweetness of her temper rendered her so truly amiable, that it was impossible to know her intimately without feeling a tender interest in her welfare ; her misfortunes, and the dreadful situation to which she might be reduced, driven forth a helpless wanderer in a world where youth and beauty stand

stand in need of powerful protection, were considerations that pained my heart, and rendered me equally unfit to partake in pleasure or in business.

During this period, I had entirely forgotten my protoge Mrs. Mc Cannon, but at length recollecting her, I was ashamed of my neglect, and resolved to pay her a morning visit. She received me with an air of suppressed resentment, which I no sooner perceived than I determined to come to an instant explanation, lest vanity might have induced her to misconstrue the motive of the services I had rendered her.

After a slight apology for not calling on her sooner, I told her I hoped she had no reason to find fault with the place in which I had placed her on the late emergency.

‘None (replied she carelessly) I might say with Bobadil, the ‘cabin is convenient.’ But I should like to get into a more frequented part of the town.’

Have you madam wrote to your friends, or determined on any plan for your future disposal?

‘Friends,

‘ Friends, Sir—I have none I wou’d consult—to my husband I positively never will return.’—

Permit me madam to ask why you have made such a determination? If you cou’d effect a reconciliation with Mr. Mc Cannon, you might live more securely, and more creditably, under his protection than any other.

“ He—the brute—the wretch—I’d sooner beg, starve, or die, than dwell under one roof with the monster.”

Shock’d at her opprobrious mention of the man she had so grossly injured, I view’d her with a mixture of horror and disgust. Oh Beauty (thought I) how powerless are thy darts when contaminated by depravity!—

She instantly interpreted my looks and my silence. “ If Sir (said she) I thought you had intermeddled in my affairs to assume a power of directing me, you should not have had this opportunity of upbraiding me for my misfortunes. But Sir, for the future I neither desire your advice or your visits, and the sooner you put an end to this one the better.”—

Pardon

Pardon me madam, (said I) a wish to serve you alone has influenced my conduct. I have extricated you from the difficulties in which you were involved, by a misplaced confidence—you are now at liberty, and will, I hope, make such use of it as may be for your future advantage. If, at any time, you should think proper to ask my council or assistance, you may command them : and in the mean while, as it may be sometime before you can receive remittances from your friends, permit me to furnish you with a small supply for your immediate use.

I arose, and laying a £10. Bank note on the table, bowed, and was about to withdraw. “ Stay Sir (cried Mrs. Mc Cannon) I must own I have some obligations to you, and am willing to owe you one more ; I know you are a good deal in Mr. Bloomford’s confidence, tell me then ingenuously what you think his intentions are in regard to me ?”—

Can they madam (replied I) require an explanation ?—has not his conduct evinced——

“ I am sensible (interrupted she) that his late actions were very unkind, but I know his temper—

temper—he is subject to frequent and violent fits of passion, and perhaps now his anger is blown over, I may regain my usual ascendancy over him.”

Struck with contempt at this manifestation of folly and meanness, I abruptly told her, I was quite a stranger to his determinations, and took a hasty leave, wondering how a temper too insolent to submit to the requisitions of duty, could stoop to cringe thus to tyranny, when impelled by illicit inclination.

Unhappy woman (thought I as I left her) how wretched is the situation to which you have reduced yourself, you have abandoned a man who gave you the most unequivocal proof of sincere affection, in chusing you to be the partner of his life, and thrown yourself upon the mercy of an enemy, whose first step was to make a prey of your honour, and your fame; and who now casts you off to struggle through a world, whose esteem and favour he has robbed you of. Sure there is no species of vice more atrocious than seduction, or any degree of weakness more unpardonable than the fatal credulity which induces

duces women to listen to the adulation of those whose love is attended with the worst effects of hate, and whose flattery leads to the most abject debasement.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXVIII.

A Scene of Domestic distress.

SOON after my return home, Rymer called on me with a very disagreeable piece of intelligence. Mr. Tropic had been some days ill, and Dr. Meanwell who was called in the preceding evening, pronounced his disorder to be a fever of the most dangerous sort.

I immediately flew to the house of my revered preceptor, and found him very ill indeed ;—those intellects which had done honour to human nature were overpowered by the violence of the distemper, and he uttered nothing but wild and incoherent ravings to his almost dying wife, who sat beside him in a silent agony, more affecting than words can describe.

Henry and Emily were on the other side of his bed, they were in tears, and on my entrance with Rymer, they flew to us. “ Oh Mr. Townly (said Henry) Papa won’t speak to me ; I don’t think I was bold ; but if I was, I will never vex him

him again—indeed I won't.”—I broke from the child, and advanced to Mrs. Tropic, entreating her to hope for the best.—“ Alas (cried she) no comfort, no hope, remains for me ;—my friend, my companion, my husband :—we must part for ever.”

A fainting fit now gave respite to the agonies of her mind, and during that, with Rymer's assistance, I removed her and the children into another apartment, where a careful woman sent by Mrs. Rymer, was placed to attend them. On Mrs. Tropic's recovering from her swoon, we urged every argument to persuade her to be patient, and take some care of her health, which was already in an alarming state, but our efforts were vain, and had not extreme debility prevented her from moving, she would have returned to her husband's apartment.

Doctor Meanwell, who now came in, joined in our task, and insisted on her being directly put into bed ;—“ From whence (said to me he in a low voice) I much fear she never will arise ; the springs of life are worn down (continued he) and the violent shock she must sustain will rend them asunder for ever.”

We now returned to the room where my worthy preceptor lay.—The Doctor again felt his pulse, judging from his looks that the prognostic was of the worst sort, I told him my apprehensions, which he confirmed.—“ Medical assistance is vain in this case (said he) He is rapidly advancing to the end of all his earthly cares.”

Never had my heart felt an emotion so painful as arose from those words: my feelings would have totally overpowered me, had I not been relieved by a violent gush of tears.

After some time I resumed a small degree of composure, and begg'd the Doctor would not abandon him whilst life remained.—I entreated him to spare no expence, if he deemed any assistance necessary.

He replied the case was hopeless.—“ Already (added he) Death has begun his work, and will ensure his prey e'er a few hours are past.”

I approached the bed-side of my dying friend, and perceived he had fallen into a doze.—I beckoned the Doctor, who shook his head and said, “ Nature wearied in this ineffectual struggle sinks to momentary rest before her final exertion;—

let

let him be kept quiet,—on awaking he may possibly be more clear in his intellects, than he has hitherto been.” I took the seat Mrs. Tropic had left. I determined to watch over my revered friend whilst he continued to exist: In about two hours he awoke, and looking around as if surprised, he exclaimed, “ Merciful God !—where am I ?”

Overjoyed to hear his voice I advanc’d my head, but instantly withdrew it upon observing the pallid and ghastly change that had taken place in his countenance. After some time he sighed deeply, and faintly called, “ Emily, my love ; where are you ?”

She went to take some repose whilst you slept (said I) but I will have her called. “ No, no, (replied he) do not disturb her by any means,—but Charles what makes you here,—Oh yes,—I remember now,—I have been ill.—”

Compose yourself dear Sir (said I.)

He remained silent a little while, and then exclaimed, “ Father of Creation, I obey your will,—yes, I am sensible of your call, and my spirit with rapture flies to meet you.”

My audible grief now attracted his notice, he withdrew the curtain that separated us, "My dear pupil, (said he) may heaven bless you,—my friend too (observing Rymer, who with Doctor Meanwell had just entered) how kind are those cares.—"

The Doctor advanced, felt his pulse, and remained silent.

"It is all over, Doctor, (said the undaunted patient) I feel it is, and I rejoice at my enlargement.—Oh World, what are thy uncertain goods,—thy fallacious joys,—welcome thou better existence : enlightened by faith, sustained by hope, my soul shrinks not at passing to it's God."

We were all too much affected to interrupt him. "My friends (proceeded he) I know your sincere attachment to me,—I have experienced it in numberless instances,—you have good hearts :—my wife,—my children,—I recommend them all to you,—love them for my sake,—be-friend them, for I leave them poor and unprotected.—Pardon me heaven,—I distrust not in the divine Father's protection :—No Lord, thou wilt not forsake the offspring of thy servant, thou wilt pour blessings on

on their harmless heads, and support the beloved of my soul."

We gave him every assurance of exerting our utmost cares in their behalf, and he taking a hand of each, bade us farewell. "Leave me now, (said he) and I trust in a better world ye will re-join me. Charles,—but I need not speak,—you will never forget my advice. May the Almighty shield you from vice, and from woe, look up to him in every exigence, for he alone can make you happy."

Here his strength seemed quite exhausted, and his voice broken. The Doctor begg'd he would endeavour to rest a little. "The tranfient sleep of life is o'er (replied he) I am now awaking to a glorious, an endless morn.—Emily,—best of women,—I must see you no more,—your heart would break on beholding my dissolution.—Save her O God from every pang—and receive"—Here convulsions deprived him of utterance, nor did he recover the use of speech; at length quite exhausted, nature relinquished her toil, and he breathed his last.

I gazed on the pale relics of my only friend :
Oh, my kind guardian, my affectionate monitor
(said

(said I) is then then thy virtuous spirit fled? are thy eyes closed, and thy lips sealed for ever? Oh, still look down, still hover over me, nor cease to influence as thou wert wont, my erring mind, and guide me to good.

I was interrupted in my melancholy employment by the entrance of Mrs. Rymer, who requested her husband and me to come with her to Mrs. Tropic's apartment, as she insisted on being taken out of bed and drefs'd, in order to come to her husband;—in the performance of this effort she had fainted several times, but still persisted: We went directly, but my eyes swelled with weeping, and the hopeless pensiveness portrayed in every countenance too plainly revealed her loss. She gazed wistfully at us all by turns. "What (cried she) the blow is then struck.—Oh wretched Emily, thou art—a—widow."

Exhausted by the violence of her emotions, a long and deadly swoon succeeded these words, from which she recovered only to relapse, and the frequency of her fits alarmed us with apprehensions of instant danger to her life. Doctor Meanwell at length assured us that our fears were groundless for the present, although a very short period would terminate her existence. He administered

nistered a composing medicine, and then gave directions to have her kept as quiet as possible, desiring we would leave her to her repose.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXIX.

*In which is shewn that Prosperity does not always
spoil the human Heart.—More Exercise for Sensi-
bility.*

ON enquiring into the circumstances of our deceased friend, we found that his effects would be barely sufficient to satisfy the landlord from whom he had rented his house, so we gave the necessary orders for his interment to an Undertaker, and deposited a sum to provide all that was requisite for the family. I had the preceding day received an half year's allowance for cloaths and expences from Mr. Caveat, by my Father's direction, but the Bill I had presented to Mrs. Mc Cannon, and some immediate trifling demands, had drained me of every shilling except what I advanced on this melancholy occasion, which was by no means adequate to my wishes.

In this exigence I resolved to apply to my aunt for a supply ; I accordingly went directly to Portman-Square, and found the family just returned from Southampton.

I pre-

I prefaced my intended demand by relating the melancholy situation of my late Preceptor's family; the tender tear of pity suffused the bright eyes of Lady Bruin, her bosom heav'd with sighs of compassion,—even the rough Baronet growl'd commiseration. “It is a dismal case (said he) what will become of the children when the mother dies; they must be sent to the Charity-School, and that's but a bad provision for the poor things.”

“With your leave Sir Charles (said her Ladyship) I cou'd, I think, contrive to have one of them at least better disposed of.”

“Eh, how d'ye mean?” interrogated Sir Charles.) “I have long wish'd (resumed her Ladyship) for a female companion, to enliven my solitary hours in the country, and although the daughter of this unfortunate family is too young to administer to the pleasures of society, her innocent prattle will amuse me, and the task of instructing her furnish an agreeable employment.”

“Hey—why yes, I believe so—and you shall do as you please,” replied Sir Charles.)

Her Ladyship thanked the Baronet in terms of the utmost sweetness for his ready acquiescence in her wish, and then turning to me, said she thought it would be right to go to see the mother, and render her mind easy about the future situation of her child.—I instantly offered to be her conductor in this humane visit, and Sir Charles giving his assent to our intention, we set out for the house of the disconsolate Widow.

On our way I imparted to my aunt the favour I had to request of her, and said I would be obliged to her to furnish me with an immediate supply to alleviate the distresses of this unhappy family, which I would most thankfully repay.

“I never imagined (replied her Ladyship) I should have refused any request of yours, but with this I positively cannot comply.” She stop’d, and I felt confounded and abash’d—‘for resumed she) I am determined to reserve the pleasure of supplying them to myself.’

Agreeably undeceived, I gazed on her with heart-felt approbation, but it was quickly check’d by the recollection of the Masquerade adventure, which was deeply engraven on my mind; yet tho’

my

my heart could not give her its perfect esteem, I was charmed with her humanity.

• Charles (continued her Ladyship) I may say like Belcour, I am the child of distress, and the unhappy have a natural claim to my assistance—no unexpected glare of prosperity can make me forget the obscurity of my birth, or the wretchedness to which my earliest years was exposed—in me the poor and the friendless shall ever find a heart to commiserate their distresses, and a hand ready to share with them the fortune to which I have been accidentally raised.

My admiration and reverence was still more enhanced by a declaration which shewed the native greatness of a mind superior to undeserved misfortune, and undazzled by wealth or distinction. Heavens (thought I) how inconsistent is human nature! Can a heart glowing with such fine and exalted feelings at the same moment harbour the most illicit and degrading sentiments? My reverie was interrupted by our arrival at the house of Mrs. Tropic. I handed my aunt in, and left her in the parlour, whilst I went to prepare the poor mourner for her reception. Mrs. Rymer who had not left her since my departure, informed me on her awaking, she appeared astonishingly composed,

composed, but that her weakness was apparently increased, and that Doctor Meanwell, who was just gone away, said a very few hours would remove her from the woes of mortality.

I drew near the bed-side of the amiable sufferer, and as briefly as I could, explain'd the arrival of my aunt, and the purport of her visit. The fixed dejection of her countenance gave place to a momentary gleam of satisfaction. "Bring me (said she) this angel who comes to sooth a breaking heart. (My Aunt now entered with Mrs. Rymer.) An angel indeed (continued she) and are you—are you come to speak peace to my departing spirit? will you be a parent to my orphan girl?—will you shield her from the oppressions of an unfeeling world, and tram her up in the ways of piety and virtue?"

"I will (replied my Aunt in a voice interrupted with weeping) I will watch over your child with unremitting care and tenderness.—My best endeavours shall be exerted to make her all you can wish."

"Hear her promise, oh, God? (cried Mrs. Tropic) and reward her.—Oh! you have plucked an agonizing sting from my heart: May your

own

own never experience one pang, may your days be peaceful and your end happy.—Come hither Emily, here is the mother God gives you.—Love her, obey her:—Farewell darling of my soul! oh heaven! I resign her.”——

Rymer, who had come in during this affecting conversation, now advanced, and addressed her. “I come to put in my claim (said he)—your Henry—will you entrust him to my care?”

‘Dear and benevolent friend (replied she) the friend of my—alas! he is gone.—Hold yet my heart—to you and your worthy wife I give my son.—Gracious Heaven you have not forsaken my children in this distressful hour—oh protect them ever—but ah! I feel the moment of my release approaching.—Draw near ye friends of misery, and receive the widow’s and the mother’s thanks.”——

The alteration in her countenance too strongly corroborated her assertion, we all advanced, and involuntarily knelt around her, she continued in broken accents—‘this is an awful moment, but the bitterness of death is past—the toil of life is over, and I go to join him without whom the world is a desert. Charles, worthy and kind young
man,

man, receive my thanks, my blessing. See my remains laid with those of my husband,—this is my last request,—and now my friends all farewell. A mist hides you from my eyes, but you are still present to my heart. Oh God receive the spirit of thy creature, and let thy mercy—”

The hand of death broke off her ejaculation and put a period to her woes. We remained some time overpowered with the awful spectacle before us, but at length recovered sufficiently to depart from this affecting scene. My Aunt took away Emily in her carriage, and Henry went home with Mr. and Mrs. Rymer.

CHAP. XXX.

Some further Particulars of Captain Surface's Proceedings. — The Author forms a new Acquaintance.

IN due time Rymer and I paid the last duties to our lamented friends, and deposited their bodies in one grave, we watered the cold turf with our tears, and solemnly vowed through life to be the guardians and protectors of their orphan offspring.

This melancholy task over, my mind gradually resumed its wonted state, and I returned again to the avocations and the pleasures of life.

The loss of Letitia made my abode at Mr. Caveat's extremely disagreeable; her friendship, her cheerfulness, her worth were not to be compensated for, and gloomy dissatisfaction took possession of our mansion.

A deep

A deep cloud seemed to hang over the fate of that amiable and unfortunate girl, no vestige of her steps could be discovered, and her Uncle in despair had discontinued his search. His indignation against her seemed every day to encrease; probably owing to the efforts of his sister, who fann'd the flame of his resentment with her malicious insinuations, and spared no pains to incense him against the poor fugitive, in hope of profiting by rendering the breach irreconcilable.

Incensed by the late disappointment of her expectations, the sour temper of Miss Caveat acquired an additional degree of acidity, which brought no acquisition to the pleasures of our domestic society.—Thus unpleasantly situated at home I spent a great deal of my time at Portman Square, and every day discovered some new reason to think little Emily's situation a very fortunate one; Lady Bruin shewing her the kindness and attention of a parent.

Ever since the adventure at the Masquerade I had kept a scrutinizing eye on her Ladyship's conduct, but so regular was her deportment, so domestic her manner of living, and so exemplary her respectful and proper behaviour to her husband, that it was impossible to discover the least fault,

fault, and had I not been a witness of her indiscretion on that occasion, I could not have believed her capable of misconduct.

At length the conclusion of the session giving our senators permission to return to their rural household gods, my Uncle prepared for taking his family to the country. I saw them depart with regret, and promised to pay them a visit the moment I received my father's permission to quit London.

This long expected permission I now waited for with impatience, as I had gone through the whole of the studies Mr. Profody directed, I had little business to engross my thoughts, my contempt for Bloomford deprived me of my most familiar associate, nor did I seek to cultivate the intimacy of any of those to whom he had introduced me: My chief amusement was frequenting the Theatres and the Opera-house, at which places I found a rational and pleasing entertainment.

Going one night to Drury-Lane to see a favourite performer in a remarkable character, I heard Lady Betty Surface's servant called, he was keeping places in the box adjoining that in which I sat, and the Lady immediately entered accompanied

panied by two others. She was an unwieldy ordinary, sullen looking woman, in every respect the reverse of the elegant Letitia. My surprise on beholding her was extreme, I could hardly give credit to the evidence of my senses, or believe that any man who had felt the attractions of the one, could desert her to make choice of the other. An old gentleman who sat near me, observing the particular attention with which I viewed her, entered into conversation with me. ‘ Pray Sir (said he) do you know that lady ?’ No, Sir (replied I,) but you will oblige me if you can inform me who she is ? ‘ that I can, Sir, answered he, perfectly well ; she is the daughter of the late Earl of Bel-field, her first husband Sir John Rivers was my particular friend ; he left her a large fortune, which she has lately thought proper to bestow on a juvenile hero, who makes her a very cavalier return for her generosity, as you may perceive if you direct your eyes to yonder front box—that is he, Sir, chatting to the young woman dressed in gold muslin : she is his mistress, and on her he squanders the wealth her Ladyship’s misjudging tenderness has lavished upon him.

I pointed my eyes to the quarter my very communicative intelligencer directed, but what was my amazement on discovering the lady particularized

larized as Surface's mistress, to be no other than Mrs. Mc Cannon, dress'd in a most splendid manner, and conversing with apparent *gaieté du cœur*, whilst her *cher ami* paid her the most particular attention. At this sight the remembrance of Letitia's wrongs rushed on my mind so powerfully, that I involuntarily exclaimed—inhuman!—monstrous!—

“ It gives me much pleasure, (cried my new acquaintance) to find in this degenerate age, a youthful mind capable of feeling a just horror and abhorrence of vice; and with your leave young gentleman I wou'd wish to be better acquainted with you.”

I made a polite return to his condescension, and we continued conversing familiarly, till the end of the entertainment obliged us to separate; when he gave me a ticket with his address, and requested to see me speedily.

I arose early the ensuing morning and went to breakfast with Rymer, whom I found busily employed in preparations for a voyage to Ireland, where Mrs. Rymer's presence and his was required, to take possession of an estate, which had devolved to her by the death of an Uncle in that kingdom, of which she was a native.

He

He had settled all his affairs, and given up the direction of business to Mrs. Rymer's Aunt, who was well qualified for the purpose. Henry, of whom both he and his wife were extremely fond, they determined to take with them, and after an affecting adieu, we parted and they began their journey.

Their departure, by narrowing my circle of acquaintance still more, added to my impatience of returning home. I felt more than ever, the cruelty of being banished from my paternal roof and deprived of the pleasures and endearments a child naturally expects to enjoy with the authors of his being. I loved my father and mother, nor could their neglect of me, or my long enforced absence from them, weaken the ties of affection by which I was bound to them.

C H A P. XXXI.

More Specimens of Libertine Friendship.—Beginning of a curious Adventure.

I Had for some days observed a visible coolness in Mr. Caveat's deportment towards me, and an encreasing dislike in that of his sister, both which I attributed to the ill Offices of Bloomford, who (as Kitty informed me) threw out several innuendos conveying a suspicion of a secret attachment between me and Letitia, who must (he said) have been spirited away by some dark and incomprehensible contrivance.

As it was impossible for me to bring this miscreant to account for his baseness without betraying my intelligencer, I was obliged to bear this injurious treatment in silence, and endeavour by the openness of my conduct to prove my innocence, and obviate the unjust prejudices he had raised against me.

In pursuance of the promise I had given to my new acquaintance, I went to wait upon him, and met

met with a most cordial reception. His name was Grub, he lived in a small and indifferently furnished house, and had no family resident with him, except two meagre looking servants shabbily dressed.

Not much pleased with the unpromising appearance of his abode and equipage, I almost repented of having so readily accepted his invitation. He observed the gravity of my looks, and divined the cause, "Young man (said he) I perceive you are disgusted by my apparent poverty, but learn that you are never to judge by appearances, my stile of life is frugal by my own choice, for plain as I appear, I have wealth enough to purchase the property of half the glittering coxcombs of your acquaintance.—I thought you were superior to the folly of esteeming things in themselves worthless and nugatory, or I would not have sought your acquaintance, I can assure you."

Abashed at his discovery of my sentiments, I endeavoured to extenuate the charge, and assured him he had not been deceived in the first opinion he had form'd relative to my way of thinking. "Well (replied he) I believe you, you are of a happy disposition : It is uncommon at your time of life to have discovered the futility of grandeur,
and

and vanity of wealth, yet it is a truth too obvious to be mistaken that man wants but little here below, nor needs even that little long. They are acquired necessities, they are adventitious wants, which have rendered him the unhappy creature he is in these degenerate days.—Oh divine temperance ! thou art the true philosophy, the *sum-mum bonum* of the human race.”

Delighted and edified by the sentiments of this practical philosopher, I listened with reverential attention, whilst he expatiated on the perverse opinions and mistaken pursuits of the world. “How much more happy than we are in this iron age (cried he) were our ancestors in the golden days, when all things were possessed in common, when none rioted in abundance, and none wanted a sufficiency for the gratification of moderate desires. Luxury with its concomitant train of ills, excess with its attendant evils, and vanity with its numberless plagues, were all unknown to mankind ; all were temperate, and all were happy.”

After a long conversation, during which he took occasion to be informed of my name, family, and pretensions of life, I arose and took leave ; at parting he told me he would soon return my visit and be happy in every opportunity of shewing his regard

gard for a youth of my good sense and excellent dispositions.

From his house I fauntered into the Park which was remarkably thin of company, not meeting any of my acquaintances I entered into the Green Park, and was proceeding slowly on to Piccadilly, when from a window of one of the houses a large packet was flung containing something heavy: it fell directly at my feet and the window was instantly closed,

I looked round to see if there was any other passenger for whom this might be intended; for although it had no superscription I could not think of appropriating it until I had endeavoured to find whether or not it was meant for me. No human creature was within view, I therefore walked to a little distance to examine my prize. In it I found a large key, and the following words written,

*" This Key will admit you through the Garden
" at Ten o'Clock to Night: when we meet I will
explain every thing."*

Surprised at an adventure so romantic, I examined and re-examined the billet, I reconnoitered the house very particularly, lest I should not
be

be able to recognize it again, and also enquired from a chairman on the adjacent stand, who it was that occupied that house? he answered it belonged to one Mr. Monopoly, a hugeous rich man lately returned from India.—I then enquired if he had any family, and was told he had a sister and a daughter, the former old and ugly, the latter young and beautiful. Having given my intelligencer something to drink my health, I departed fully determined to be punctual to the assignation.

epistle, I trod in air, and thought every moment an age till the appointed hour should arrive when I might behold the lady one who had thus distinguished me, and made such advances to obtain an interview.

At length the wished-for moment came, I returned to the spot pointed out in the billet, unlocked the door and entered the garden, where I was received by a young woman, who (after enjoining me to be softly near) led me thro' several passages and rooms, till at last we entered one where a very fine young lady was waiting our arrival.

The moment she beheld me, she started, blushed, and exclaimed, "Oh heaven! what a sight!"

C H A P. XXXII.

A mortifying Disappointment, and disagreeable Catastrophe.

THE effect of this adventure on my mind was astonishing; the suggestions of vanity dilated my breast, my wits seemed overturned by the receipt of this enigmatical epistle, I trod in air, and thought every moment an age till the appointed hour should arrive when I might behold the fair one who had thus distinguished me; and made such advances to obtain an interview.

At length the wish'd-for moment came, I repaired to the spot pointed out in the billet, unlock'd the door and enter'd the garden, where I was received by a young woman, who (after enjoining me to be strictly silent) led me thro' several dark passages and rooms, till at last we entered one where a very fine young lady sat waiting our arrival.

The moment she beheld me, she started, shrieked, and exclaimed, 'Oh heavens! what dreadful

dreadful mistake is this?—who have we here?—

This billet, madam (said I) extremely confounded. Merciful heaven (interrupted she) that paper Sir, was intended for another—oh I am undone for ever—how Anne con'd you make such a mistake!

Fear nothing, madam, (cried I) I am a man of honour, and will act in conformity to your directions in every particular; this paper was thrown to me from one of your windows this day, and no other person being within view at the time, I naturally supposed it must be intended for me.

“What strange accident (cried she) could prevent Mr. Wilford from coming at the time he appointed; it is owing to his want of punctuality, and my maids giddiness.”—

“Indeed madam (sob'd the girl) I thought it could be no other than Mr. Wilford; for you see madam the gentleman has a grey coat, just for all the world like his, and besides madam your aunt being just by, I only took a glimpse of him, and threw out the letter in great

haste, for fear she should catch me in the fact."

"I am much concerned madam, said I, in being unintentionally accessory to your disappointment, and if I can render you any service command me if you wish to have any intimation conveyed to the gentleman.

"Lord help you, Sir, (interrupted the waiting-woman) Mr. Wilford is so jealous and so frumpish, that your being seen in the matter would only make bad worse, we should have him in his crotchets as bad as ever."

Her lady look'd much disconcerted at the girl's indiscretion, and was beginning to enter into an explanation which tended to obviate the censure cast upon her lover, when a thundering rap at the street door alarmed us all—"Oh, cried the young lady, I am ruined for ever, it is my father and my aunt."

"Oh Lord (cried the maid) I shall be turned out without a character, and never get another service all the dear days of my life!"

• Cannot

Cannot I make my escape unseen, madam,
(said I) by the same way I enter'd?—

' Oh no Sir, replied the lady, they are by this time in one of the parlours, thro' which you must pass to get back to the garden,—and'—

' Oh Lord madam (interrupted the waiting-woman) they're coming up—they will be here in a minute, into this closet Sir for the love of heaven, and don't stir—a sneeze or a cough would be our destruction—in Sir in—I had barely time to obey her direction, and she to lock the door and put the key in her pocket, before the Father and the Aunt made their appearance.

' So Lucy (said the Aunt) you were fortunate in not coming with us; to be sure Mrs. Deputy Cordwain has no manner of idea of Routs—five paltry card-tables, and no body would play more than half guineas.'

' It was perverseness I warrant made her stay at home, tho' (cried Mr. Monopoly) but lookee Lucy, you should marry the man I have chosen

sen for you, or else you shall shift for yourself.'—

' Fie Brother (cried the Aunt) how impetuous you are—go to bed Lucy, my dear you may retire.'—

' With your leave madam (replied Miss Monopoly) I wou'd wish to stay up to supper.

' You sha'nt then, because you wish it, (said her Father)—begone this instant.'

' Why brother (cried the Aunt as the young lady and her maid retired) I protest you are grown quite a tyrant of Syracuse. You will drive your daughter to marry the man you don't approve, to get rid of this more than salique oppression.'

' D—n it madam (sputter'd Monopoly.)'

' There now again (said the lady)—you ought to moderate your passions—indeed you ought—read Dr. Taylor and the eclogue of Moses.'—

' Read a fiddlestick (replied he) will you go to tell me that a father has not authority to do
what

what he pleases with his children, am not I a better judge of what is for her good than she is herself?—

“ A fine proof you are going to give of it (cried the lady) to give your daughter to a paltry country gentleman—is there a Nabob in England would do the like but yourself; is it not the first care of those who come here laden with the riches of the East, to contract alliances with quality, to give dignity to their wealth; did not old Tape, who after being declared a Bankrupt in Threadneedle-street, brought home his plumb from Bengal, get the Duke of Vingtun’s daughter for his wife, and this is in my own memory—no not precisely in my own memory neither, but I have heard talk of it.”

“ Sister, Sister (replied Monopoly) it was in the year 1766, two years after your husband died. I recollect perfectly you wrote me an account of it at the very time you acquainted me of your having received a proposal of marriage from old Oddity the Pawnbroker, who afterwards broke off with you to marry Parson Saygrace’s handsome young daughter.”

“ It

"It would be more for your honour, Mr. Monopoly, said the Lady, and more for that of your family, if your memory was not quite so tenacious as it is. But why in the name of wonder will you hurry my niece into matrimony? the girl is quite a child, and with the opulent fortune, to which she is heiress may *rationably* hope to match with one of the first rank."

"Who the D—l (replied Mr. Monopoly) told her or you she was to be my heiress? it is the cast of my thoughts I assure you."—

"What mean you brother (interrogated the lady)" "I mean (replied he) to get a wife for myself—and a young handsome wife too—what d'ye think I'm such a fool as to prefer my daughter's happiness to my own? every body for himself is one of our Eastern maxims, and I have not forgot it."

"Mr. Monopoly (cried the Lady) you absolutely petrify me :—What at your time of life to play the fool and marry?"

"Sister, Sister (replied he) when I die of age, you know the rest. To be sure marriage is a hazardous

hazardous thing in Europe. The one wife I had here, gave me more trouble than the nine I had at Bombay.—D—n it, I wish we had the same mode of living here that we had there.—We are cursedly fettered with customs, and manners, and decorums, and what not, in this part of the Globe, besides there is no subordination here: I have my hall full of powdered puppies, yet I warrant if I should order them to take me on their shoulders in a Palanquin through the streets, I should have a rebellion.”

“ Dear brother (cried the lady) what in the name of wonder is it that thus developes your discernment? what can?”

“ Z—ds Madam (interrupted the Nabob) do you pretend to talk to me!”

“ Talk to you, Sir!—No—the eloquence of *Tullia* and all the *Sisserany* would be thrown away upon you.”

“ Eloquence! quotha (cried he) aye, here is another fine effect of British liberty.—We have philosophers in petticoats, and preachers in fly caps.—The first thing I’ll do when I get a seat in the House of Peers, is to bring

in a bill for the establishment of Harams, and move for an order to cripple all the women in England with Chinese slippers."

A servant now entered to inform them supper was serv'd, on which intelligence they both hastened away, and I began to conceive some hope of being delivered from my hiding-place, where I was heartily tired of lying perdue, but the accomplishment of this wish did not arrive so speedily as I thought it would; it was full two hours before this amiable *tete a tete* quitted their genial banquet, and my conductress cou'd not attempt to release me whilst any of the family were stirring.

At length I heard the key softly turn'd and a whisper of "Sir, Sir, are you awake?" May I come forth, (returned I) "Oh yes Sir, the coast is clear at last; (said she) to be sure I and my lady have been in a doleful twitter about you—but Lord Sir, what made you come without knowing for why or for what? as a body might say upon a fools errand."

The girl in her simplicity had stumbled upon such an home truth, that I knew not what to answer; and she proceeded, "but la Sir, don't
be

be angry with my lady, she's more to be pitied than blamed, it was all owing to my mistake: You must know, Sir, my aunt who waited on Miss, and who knew all and about this Wilford, was turned off for carrying on their correspondence: so what does she, but get me recommended in her place, in order to deceive the old folks, and serve Miss as she did; and being but a week here, and not knowing this Wilford from Adam till I came, I happened to take you for him."

Mr. Wilford then comes here often secretly, (said I.)

"Oh lud no Sir,—I'll tell you how it came about that he was to be here to night: My Master having made up a match for Miss with a young Squire she can't abide the sight of, though by my troth in my mind, he's a likelier man by half than Wilford, who between ourselves will be no great bargain if she gets him, for he is as jealous-pated as the black man in the play, that ran mad about his wife's pocket handkerchief."

But what of your lady's marriage? (interrupted I.)

"Why?

“Why when Mr. Wilford heard of it by a letter she sent him, he wrote her a scolding that made her heart ach, and said it was all of her, and that she wanted to fob him off after all her fair promises. My poor lady took on violently on this, and begg'd of me to go and bid him wait for her to night at the garden-door, and that she would elope and go with him to Scotland; but my gentleman gave me a huff-bluff answer, and bid me tell her she must meet him in the Green-Park an hour before dinner, where he would attend for an explanation of her conduct, which he had reason to believe was too favourable to his rival, and that he looked upon her offer of going with him to be all a sham to blind him, and if she did not do this, he would put her new favourite to death, and abandon her for ever.”

“Desperate jealousy indeed!” (said I).

“Oh Sir, he is a sad man (replied my voluble intelligencer) I'd as lief marry a bear, but every one to their fancy.—Well Sir, my poor lady was so closely watched by the old dragon her aunty, who sat in her dressing room all the forenoon, that she could not for the life of her attempt to go to meet him; and whatever the deuce put it into her head, old Madam forbid my stirring out too,

left

lest any harm should befall me, as I was a country girl, and knew but little of the town: I told her I had a cousin dying in the next street, who could not depart in peace unless she saw me, but it was all in vain.—In this distress Sir, Miss recollected they were all engaged at a rout in the evening, so she resolved she would pretend to be sick, and take the opportunity of receiving a visit from Mr. Wilford, while they were away; so Sir she slipped aside for a minute, and wrote the letter I unfortunately (mistaking you for him) threw to you out of the window.”

After this explanation of a matter which had so much puzzled me, I desired the Fille de Chambre to lead on, and we explored our way to the garden. I bid her present my compliments to Miss Monopoly, and assure her her secret should be inviolably kept by me, and was then let out by my communicative guide, who instantly locked the door after me.

I was making off with a hasty pace not a little mortified at the denouement of my adventure, but had not proceeded many steps, when I was overtaken by a man, who cried “ Stop villain, think not to escape my rage,—draw and defend yourself.”

It

It instantly occurred to me that this must be Wilford, but he attacked me with such rapidity and violence that there was no time for explanation, after a few passes he fell, but not until he had lodged his sword in my breast.

The blood gushed in such quantities from my wound that I was too weak to offer him any assistance, and the consequent faintness that succeeded soon deprived me of sensation.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXXIII.

*An unexpected Wedding.--Mr. Caveat begins to
show his real Sentiments.*

IN this melancholy condition we both might have perished, had not we been discovered by some gentlemen who providentially were passing that way, and instantly administered every possible aid. One of them happening to be a Surgeon, he bound up our wounds in such a way as stopped the vast effusions of blood, and by the assistance of some volatile salts he had about him recovered us sufficiently to be removed to our habitations ; Wilford, who was not so badly wounded as I was, recovered strength enough to give directions about being carried home, but I continued unable to articulate a syllable ; however, some of my visiting tickets which were found in one of my pockets, discovering the necessary particulars, relative to my residence : I was placed in a sedan, and the Surgeon and another gentleman attended me home.

On

On examining the wound in my breast it was found to be of a very dangerous nature, so that the Surgeon desired the assistance of others of the faculty, lest any blame should accrue to him in consequence of my death, which was extremely probable. All these particulars I learnt afterwards, and likewise that Mr. Caveat and his sister were very much chagrined at my being brought to their house in that condition.

In consequence of this disastrous adventure, I languished seven weeks, during which I was not suffered to hold any conversation; but as soon as my Surgeon permitted me to reassume the use of speech, I sent to request Mr. Caveat's presence. He complied with my desire, but as I could not give any satisfactory account of my adventure, having promised to keep all the particulars relative to Miss Monopoly concealed, my detail only served to confirm him in the unfavourable opinion he had formed of the transaction, and he told me, if he had not understood my father intended recalling me home immediately, he would have wrote to request I might be provided with another residence, as he could not suffer the peace of his house to be disturbed by my midnight brawls and profligate courses.

I was

I was both shocked and offended at this unseasonable reprimand. Humanity at the present crisis, my health being very precarious, should have restrained his invectives, and I told him I would not fail to write to my father the moment I could use a pen, to desire him to accelerate the time of my departure.

My Surgeon who came in just as Mr. Caveat had quitted me, found me much worse than I had been at the time of his last visit. "I warrant (said he) you have been fretting, in spite of my directions; but if you do not keep more quiet you will throw yourself into as bad a condition as your antagonist did, by his unruly temper, and which he has so narrowly escaped from." He then proceeded to inform me, that Wilford was thrown into such a paroxysm of rage, on accidentally hearing of the marriage of a young lady to whom he was much attached, that his wounds burst out afresh, and his life has been greatly endangered.

What (cried I) is Miss Monopoly married? prithee to whom?

"To

“To young Bloomford of Lincolnshire (replied he) it is a match of her father’s making, by what I can learn.”

I concealed my surprise as well as I could, and expressed pleasure at hearing Wilford was out of danger; adding that our rencontre was merely accidental, and originated from mistake without the least malice on either side.

“I am glad to hear so (replied he) as no further ill consequences are to be dreaded on your both recovering. For I hear Wilford is such a drawcanfir, that fighting is his delight, but he is disabled from exerting his prowess for a good while to come, by the ill effects of this second accident.”

On my being sufficiently recovered to walk about the house, I took an opportunity of enquiring from Kitty, who still lived in the family, if there had yet been any account of Letitia. “No not the least Sir (answered the girl) you have heard, I suppose of Mr. Bloomford’s being married to a vast fortune. I thought my dear young lady would have returned when there was no further danger of her being forced to be his wife :—but I fear she is gone for ever.”

The

The poor girl burst into tears as she spoke, I gave her some money, to reward the sincerity of her attachment to her amiable mistress, and she then proceeded to inform me that Mr. Caveat being quite in despair of discovering his niece, and incensed that all prospect of uniting her with Bloomford was cut off by his marriage, had threatened to leave his whole fortune to found an hospital.

And how (said I) does Miss Caveat take this declaration?

“Bad enough, and no wonder, Sir (replied Kitty) for the D—l is good to his own you know, and though she is what she is, it would be more natural for him to give his fortune to his own flesh and blood, than to a pack of strangers, or what is worse, to have it eat up by the Managers and Church-wardens, as I have heard said is often the case in such matters.”

The strongly marked unkindness of Mr. and Miss Caveat growing hourly more intolerable, I sat down and addressed an epistle to my father, entreating his permission to lay myself at his feet, where I would fully explain my conduct, and ex-
culpate

culpate myself in his opinion from all blame on the score of the late transaction ; which I made no doubt had been represented to him in an unfavourable light. I acknowledged that I had some youthful giddinesses to answer for, but that my conduct hitherto had not been disgraceful, and should hereafter be worthy of his approbation, and the world's applause.

I was extremely serious in this declaration, my late disaster had thrown me into a course of reflection my mind never entertained before, and my resolutions of amendment were founded on the deepest convictions.

The time for dismissing my Surgeon being now arrived, I was necessitated to apply to Mr. Caveat for a sum to enable me to discharge him, he advanced it, at the same time observing that although my father he feared would not think himself bound to supply my extravagance on such unworthy occasions, he would not see me distressed, as he knew I must be, should he refuse my request.

Ungracious as this compliance was, I had no alternative, and was therefore obliged to accept

cept a favour at the hands of the man who had treated me with contempt, which is one of the most painfully humiliating degradations an ingenious mind can suffer.

A T length the eagerly expected answer of my letter arrived. I opened it with an agonising tremor to my hopes and fears, but on breaking the seal perceived it was not of my father's writing. I started at this allusion, but what was my condition when I read the following lines:

"The death of Mrs. Townly and the amazing discovery attended by that event have so greatly distressed my worthy friend Mr. Townly, that he is unable to write, but he would be known how to advise one so long many years cherished as his beloved son, now that he is now to be an impostor.—I know not but if the late Mrs. Townly thought fit to commit you with the letter of her instructions to me, as the best of imposing you who are a stranger, as the best of

C H A P. XXXIV.

A distressing Eclaircissement, and unexpected Reverse of Fortune.

AT length the eagerly expected answer of my letter arrived. I opened it with an agitation suitable to my hopes and fears, but on breaking the seal perceived it was not of my father's writing : I started at this ill omen, but what was my condition when I read the following lines.

S I R,

“ The death of Mrs. Townly, and the amazing discovery occasioned by that event, have so greatly distressed my worthy friend Mr. Townly, that he is unable to write, nor indeed would he know how to address one he so many years cherished as his beloved son, now that he is proved to be an impostor.—I know not Sir, if the late Mrs. Townly thought fit to entrust you with the secret of her iniquitous scheme, in imposing you who are a foundling, as the heir of
her

her much deceived and injured husband; but whether she communicated her evil doings to you or not, the terrors of an approaching dissolution wrung from her the secret of this black transaction, and the discovery prevents you from ever enjoying that wealth to which the unhappy woman has proved you have no right.

“ I shall not attempt to describe what were the feelings of Mr. Townly on the developement of this long hidden mystery.—Suffice it to say that society was nearly deprived of one of its most valuable members, by the dreadful eclaircissement, but at length justice triumphed in his mind over a misplaced and often abused tenderness, he therefore commands me to tell you, you are no longer to assume the name of a respectable family to whom your conduct has been a disgrace, or expect any future aid or favour whatsoever from him. Whatever debts you may have contracted in the character of his son, he will discharge, but you are to look upon the inclosed order on Mr. Caveat for 100l. as the last supply you will ever receive from him, nor will he hold any further intercourse with you either personal or epistolary, so every attempt of that kind you may be idle enough to make will be to no purpose.

“ Your

" Your situation is indeed a pitiable one, but when you consider the very bad use you made of your ill acquired prosperity, you must necessarily acknowledge that your punishment is just.—Your seducing the wife of an honest man, whose justly excited resentment was near putting an early period to your criminal existence, of which Mr. Townly has been informed by the domestic who attended you to town.—Your incorrigible idleness, dissipation and extravagance :—your commencing gamester and giving bonds to Usurers to raise money to supply infamous demands :—your abusing the name of Townly, by permitting it to be used by the vile woman who lodged at Islington, (which came to my knowledge by mere accident)—and to crown all, your late duel ;—are considerations which should make you bow your heart, to the just and wise dispensation of providence, and humbly cry out, ' it is good to be chastened.'

" You will, no doubt, resent the freedom of this well-intended expostulation, but I cannot regret the offence I may give in the discharge of my duty.—I wish your future conduct may be a proof that you are properly conscious of your past enormities : And am, Sir,

Your sincere well-wisher,
and obedient servant,

Samuel Prig.'

E'er

E'er I had come to the conclusion of this cruel scrole, a mist overspread my sight, my limbs and my senses failed me, and I fell to the ground. In this condition I was discovered by Mr. Caveat, who was in his study and heard me fall, he had me placed on my bed and the necessary remedies administered, which in time restored me to sensations too dreadful for description. The death of one parent, the total alienation of the other, the loss of my name, my good fame, and fortune, all at one stroke, was a blow of the most dreadful nature; but desperation gave me the firmness which fortitude denied, and Mr. Caveat testified much surprize at my calmness under such circumstances.

"I had received a letter to the same purport of yours (said he) and was just considering how to break tidings so grievous to you, when I heard you fall. It is in truth an incident of a very surprising nature, but it is too well authenticated to admit of any doubt. Mrs. Townly declared her guilt to her husband, with her dying breath, and this proof admits of no litigation, she was about to tell the name of your real parents, but death hurried her off e'er she had come to a full explanation :—However Mr. Townly had the precaution

to make her sign a declaration of all the material particulars, which he keeps for his own justification."

Oh! (cried I) the scheme of my ruin was too deeply laid, I cannot hope for redress or justice.

"Take care young man (replied Mr. Caveat) take care, let not resentment hurry you into such an error as the stating of accusations you cannot prove. An action for scandal might encrease your distresses."

And who (cried I, looking over Mr. Prig's invectives) who shall atone to me for the injuries and misrepresentations done to my character by the vile slanders propagated by my enemies:— Oh, that this inhuman wretch were but within my reach, he should repent the insults he has dared to give me.

"More humility would better become your condition Mr. Charles (said Mr. Caveat coolly) the reverend gentleman writes like one anxious for your good."

The

The villain (cried I) has he not the effrontery to own that he played the incendiary and gave intelligence of my foolish indiscretion.—I suppose it was he too that discovered and exposed the secret of my having given a bond for 500l.

No (cried Mr. Caveat, hesitating and changing colour) no, it was I having some money transactions with the person who held it, purchased the bond for some what less than the sum it was marked for, and gave Mr. Townly notice of your unguarded conduct, that he should take some means of preventing you from ruining yourself by such proceedings.'

Oh Heavens! (cried I) have I then no one real friend!—is there a general conspiracy against me!

“ Thus are favours ever returned (cried he) by the unworthy and ungrateful.—My peace has been disturbed—my house rendered disagreeable to me,—and my money made subservient to a thankless young man, who styles me his enemy for doing him a singular service.—But, go Sir, quit this abode directly, and as for the order contained in your letter, I will not comply with it, till I know whether Mr. Townly will allow

for the sum I gave you yesterday to discharge your medical attendants, and some other matters I advanced over and above his allowance to his supposititious son."

Having pronounced this speech he quitted me abruptly, and left me transfix'd in sorrow and amazement: at length recovering my utterance, — Yes (cried I) I will quit your inhospitable roof; abandoned, disgraced, and poor as I am, I scorn to submit to obligations from a wretch who could be so unfeeling as to seize the moment of affliction to heap additional woes on the unhappy heart.

I forthwith gave directions for having every thing belonging to me sent to an Hotel, whither I instantly went and took possession of an apartment.

Here, deprived of every connection, and abandoned of every consolation, I had a full opportunity of giving a free indulgence to my oppressed heart. Filial affection and just resentment raised a tempest in my mind that shook my soul, but at length nature prevailed, and my tears

flowed in your letter. I will not conceal what I know, whether Mr. Towson will allow

flowed plentifully, which somewhat abated the poignancy of my feelings.

As soon as I became in some measure composed I began to reflect on what course I should pursue. My faithful adviser, alas! was gone to his grave, Rymer in Ireland, and my Uncle out of town.—I had no human being to consult with, or to sooth my distresses. To my Uncle however I resolved to apply: It was natural he should be the defender of his sister's slandered memory, and the assertor of the rights of her injured child; I therefore started from the bed on which I had thrown myself, and wrote to him in the most pathetic terms, a detail of the late transaction.

I entreated he would instantly join with me in investigating all circumstances closely, and endeavouring to discover some of those who were in the family at the time of my birth, who could easily disprove such a cruel assertion.

I dispatched this letter by post, and then being asked if I would not order dinner, I directed a waiter to prepare my repast in

in one of the parlours, although when it was served I was unable to take any refreshment, except a biscuit and a glass of wine.

C H A P. XXXV.

More Discoveries.—The World begins to appear in a very different Light to the Author.

SOON after the cloth was withdrawn, I was informed a young woman begged to speak with me, I gave orders for her admittance, and was pleased to see Kitty, (Miss Caveat's maid) enter.—The poor creature had heard of the late catastrophe, and having learned by the direction I had given about my trunks where I was, came to enquire for me.

“ Ah Sir ! (said she weeping) I am truly sorry for your trouble, and I pray God to give you comfort.—I am but a poor servant, but I would not have as bad a heart as some people, for all their riches.—It was a burning shame, so it was, to drive you who was but just out of the jaws of Death from their house, at a time too when you had enough besides to grieve you.

My

My good girl (said I) the friendship of many people is not proof against the adversity of those they profess to esteem.

"Believe me Sir (replied she) they never were your friends in prosperity nor adversity.—Many's the time Miss Caveat said you were a wicked rake, but I knew Sir you were no such person, but a good and well-behaved young gentleman ;—but the roguery of the old hunk's her brother, in your sickness, was what I thought worse of than all that, and I came now on purpose to let you know it, lest he should take any advantage of you by means of it."

What mean you my good girl? (said I)

"Why you must know Sir, one day after your hurt, that you was thought to be in great danger, I happened to be at work in the closet inside the breakfast parlour, into which my master came with the old fellow from 'Change-lane, who comes to him so often about business. Vulture, I think they call him ;—well Sir, on their coming in my master shut the parlour door, (little dreaming that I was in the closet) and, says he,—A pretty job you have made of it to lend my money to that spendthrift Townly, he is dying, and his bond is
not

not worth two-pence, as he is not of age.—Vulture made a great many apologies, and said he never lent my master's money to any but those he thought good marks, and that he imagined you were so.—Well, well, (says my master) there is but one step can now be taken, transfer the bond to me, and acknowledge you have received at my hands the 250l. you really lent, and the legal interest for the time he has had the money, I will make a merit with the father and family for compounding the young man's imprudence upon such good terms, and you must be more cautious for the time to come."

Astonishment, at the unravelling this complicated transaction, kept me silent.—The poor girl fearing I was displeased, proceeded "I would have informed you of this the first time I saw you after your illness, only I thought you were too weak to be disturbed without having your health endangered, and indeed even this minute Sir, you look but very indifferent, and I would advise you to take care of yourself; I wish it was in my power to befriend you, but I shall ever wish you well."

This honest creature took leave directly lest she should be missed by her lady, and I found myself so ill that I was necessitated to go to bed, from whence I was not able to rise for a month after.

During this period, the small stock of cash I had in my possession when I quitted Mr. Caveat's house was entirely exhausted, and I found myself penniless without knowing to whom I cou'd apply for relief. Yet even in this wretched condition I was not entirely abandoned of hope, I look'd forward to the answer I expected from my uncle with expectation of comfort, at length it arriv'd, but what were my sensations on perusing the following lines.

To Mr. C. Townly.

"I was much firprysed at contence of your letter as well I might, but sartinlye sifter knood her own busynis best of anye bodye, and I have nothing at all to say about the affair, won thing is clear, which is, that if you are not sisters sun, you cannot bee mye nevve, therefour disire I may bee no more troubel'd with such rig my roll stories, and as for the matter of my enterfairing I tell you in plane English, I'll not thrust my hand into any bodye's poy to burn mye fingers, so
there's

there's an end of that, dont rite any more for I'll have nothing more to saye to you.

Your's, &c.

C. Bruin."

I closed this mortifying scrawl, and raising my eyes to heaven exclaimed, Yes, I am indeed abandoned, ruined, undone. Every prospect of relief is cut off, every heart hardened against me, no tender relation, no soothing friend have I to mitigate my hard distress. I stand alone in the wide field of creation, without knowing whither to wander to support an existence made wretched by grief, poverty and infamy.

I was much surprised at the total silence of Lady Bruin on this event, but too deeply engrossed by agonizing sensations to reflect coolly, I formed no conjecture of its cause. In this disposition I wandered out without considering to what purpose, and walked a good way without any consciousness of the objects that surrounded me.

From this reverie I was awakened by a pat on the shoulder, and an exclamation of "My dear young friend, I am glad to see you:" I turned and beheld

beheld Mr. Grub. "Hey dey (said he) you look pale and ill;—I have been in the country or I should have paid you a visit before now."

I expressed much pleasure in meeting him, and I really felt it:—how fortunate is this rencountre thought I, here is a man who rises above the sordid views of life, who despises wealth and shew, and acts not on the vulgar maxims of the world; to him will I unbosom my distress, he will both advise and assist me.

On my expressing a wish to speak to him about particular business. "Come along with me (said he) to my house, you shall partake with me of a primeval meal, and we will there converse freely upon any topic you chuse to discuss!—how happy shall I be if any thing is in my power to oblige *the most respectable of young persons.*"

I directly acquiesced in his invitation, he would not hear of business until after dinner, which required no great time in the serving up, as it consisted of coarse bread, rancid cheese, bad vegetables, and sour cider.

"Come

"Come my good young man (said my entertainer) eat heartily, thus I live, and by a long course of this temperance I have escaped pain and disease,—my intellects are clear, and my heart uncorrupted.—How I pity the slaves of luxury and pride, who ostentatiously spread their tables with dainties, or rather lurking poisons to pamper appetite, whilst thousands of their fellow mortals languish for the want of common necessities:—How justly does the great investigator of human nature, the immortal Shakespeare, make Lear exclaim? 'take physic Pomp.'"

Now is the time (thought I) to introduce my sad story, the heart thus overflowing with philanthropy will incline to the unhappy, and here I shall find that friendship an unfeeling world has denied me. I accordingly entered upon my detail, to which Mr. Grub listened with apparent surprise, but he suffered me to make an end without giving me the least interruption.

For some time after I ceased to speak Mr. Grub walked about the room in deep consideration, at length he stopt short and cried in rather an abrupt manner, "Well Sir, and what is this to me, what can I do in the matter?"

I flat-

I flattered myself (replied I, rising from my seat) with obtaining your advice and some assistance to establish me in a way of life by which I could subsist.

“ Lookee Mr. Townly (said he) I am an old man 'tis true, but I am not so far advanced in dotage as to squander my money upon demands of this sort, my advice is another thing, and that I will give you freely.—Make yourself independent and you will never want friends; until I did so, I never had any,—don't pretend that even in the condition you are reduced to, you want resources, no Sir, there is money enough to be had if a man has diligence and perseverance to acquire it, and you will soon grow rich when you learn sense enough to keep what you get.

But Sir, said I, what method can I pursue?—
 “ What think you (said he) of writing for an attorney, or going to service; but I suppose sloth and pride have too strong a hold in you to permit you to submit to what requires application and humility.”

Surprized

Surprized at this roughness to *the most respectable of young persons*, I remained silent whilst he proceeded. "I never knew any good come of training up young fellows to do nothing—you ought to have been bred a shoe-maker, or a joiner, as the great Rousseau says—what, will you tell me a healthy young fellow who has the use of his limbs can want the means of providing for himself.—Go, Sir—you are an impostor, but I am not to be wheedled out of my money to supply your vanity and intemperance."

No (replied I, provoked beyond all sufferance) it is you who are an impostor, it is you who assume the semblance of virtues to which your cold heart is a stranger, to impose on those who have not discernment enough to distinguish between temperance and parsimony, or discover worthlessness lurking beneath the mask of universal philanthropy—fie on you, wether'd hypocrite, did not your insignificance protect you, I would make you repent the meanness that induced you to insult the unfortunate.—

"Help,

"Help, help, roar'd the trembling old wretch)
 a fine return for my hospitality this !" His half-
 starv'd domestics came in as he uttered these
 words, and I, telling him he had nothing to fear
 from me who despised him too much to chastise
 him, instantly quitted the house, and returned to
 my hotel.

C H A P. XXXVI.

Which shews that a Female can act with Consistency and Propriety, even when left to the Direction of her own Judgment.—More Anecdotes of Bloomford.—The Author begins his Travels.

THUS bereft of every hope I sat down to consider what steps I should take in the desperate state of my affairs. I could no longer remain where I was, nor could I find means of subsisting if I removed to a private lodging: Should I quit London I knew not whither to shape my course, yet my elevation of spirit suggested that I should have one satisfaction in a place where I was utterly unknown I could not enjoy here, and that was, that the discredit cast upon my birth would be a secret, whereas here it must be publicly known. Perhaps said I) human hearts are equally deceitful, cruel, and unjust in every clime, but among strangers if I am destitute of friends, I shall be free from enemies, and even that will be preferable to my present situation, besides if I must stoop to degrading occupations, I can do it
more

more cheerfully where no observation will point me out, than where I must be exposed to the sneers, or the insolent pity of those I have heretofore looked upon as my equals.

Buoyed up with this thought I instantly determined to set off for France, as I understood the French language better than any other of the modern European ones. To raise a supply to defray my travelling expences I had only one method, which was to make a sale of my clothes, watch, ring, &c. reserving only one suit and a few changes of linen.

I directly had my trunks put into an hackney coach, and was driven to the house of a noted purchaser of second-hand wardrobes, here I made a very disadvantageous bargain, being unequal to cope with the address of a man accustomed to avail himself of the necessities of his unfortunate fellow creatures, and having received about one twentieth of the value of what I sold, returned back to the hotel I had quitted, saying the ship in which I intended to sail would not be ready till the following day.

My

My return was fortunate, for on my entrance one of the waiters presented me with a letter that had been left for me during my absence. It was from Lady Bruin, and contained the following lines.

Dear Charles,

“ I fear you have imagined me negligent and inattentive for not having written to you sooner, but I waited to be particularly informed of the state of affairs at G—— before I offered my condolence on the late disagreeable change in your affairs, for which purpose I sent a trusty and intelligent person to make the proper enquiries, who informs me that the late Mrs. Townly certainly made the declaration her husband asserts, and that he has a copy of it signed by the Curate of the parish, and one Morton, a confidential servant in the family; whether this strange confession arose from guilt or insanity, or was fraudulently obtained, I equally feel for you who are the innocent victim of crimes, to which you were not accessory, and I most sincerely wish it was in my power to alleviate the severity of your fate.—I am ashamed of the answer you received to the letter you addressed to Sir Charles, and hope you will impute it to his temper, rather than

than his heart. I also flatter myself you look on me as a sincere friend, whom no circumstance can alienate, and in that character you will accept the inclosed trifle for your immediate use.—Every service I can do you, and every good wish of my heart for your welfare, are most truly at your command, and I entreat you will not suffer this undeserved stroke of calamity to depress your spirits, but look up to the great disposer of all events for happier days, and more prosperous fortunes. The vicissitudes of life my dear Charles are surprising and various, and perhaps this incident, which seems replete with ruin may ultimately tend to your exaltation: of one thing be assured, Heaven never deserts those who endeavour to deserve its protection, and it is my earnest wish that you may ever continue to do so.—I cannot ask you to write to me at present, lest I should incur displeasure, where I owe obedience, but hereafter I hope to obtain permission to correspond with a friend who has always merited my utmost esteem.—Our little charge Emily is very well, and every day manifests a surprising progress in improvement. She is at once the object of my care, and the source of much pleasure to me. I hope I shall hereafter shew her to you all your friendship

ship can wish. I must now bid you farewell, and I trust you will believe me

Affectionately your's, &c.

Eliza Bruin."

This letter contained bills to the amount of 200l. but this supply greatly as I stood in need of it, did not please me half so much as the friendly and humane conduct of the generous donor. How soothing are the attentions of friendship and humanity in the hour of adversity! when the soul is sinking under its oppressive influence.—What can administer such instant, such delightful relief?—I found my spirits revive, and for the first time since my misfortunes, tasted of comfort.

My mind thus exhilarated and no longer compelled by necessity to hasten my departure,—I resolved to make one effort to awaken the feelings of my father. For this purpose I wrote to him in the most pathetic terms I could possibly devise:—Surely said I (although that vile clerical incendiary tells me he will not receive my letters,) the claims of nature cannot be obliterated in a parental heart, this picture of my agonizing soul, and forlorn state will touch him with compassion, and pity will rekindle the sense of justice now dormant in his breast.

I dis.

I dispatched this epistle by a special messenger, lest if it went by post it should be intercepted, and then waited with no small impatience for his return.

In the interim, I went very little abroad, being ashamed to meet any of my former acquaintance, and nothing remarkable occurred, except a message from Bloomford, to whom during my late distresses I had sent a letter demanding payment of the sums I had formerly lent him. The person who came on this errand informed me Mr. Bloomford had been at his country seat, at the time my letter was left at his house, and had only that day returned to town, he then presented me with that gentleman's answer, and departed.

The billet of Bloomford contained another specimen of libertine friendship and gratitude;—he told me nothing had ever surprized him so much as my demand, which he supposed to be a new mode I had struck out to raise supplies, as he could demonstrate (on a fair settlement of accounts) that so far from having any claim on him, I was considerably his debtor, and that if this intimation did not awaken my recollection, he requested I would send my lawyer to confer with his about it, as he would never pay any money to which I could

could not prove a legal right; however thro' compassion to my distressed circumstances, he might wave his demand of what I owed him.—

My reliance on his integrity had prevented me from obtaining or indeed thinking of the securities the law holds necessary in such cases, I therefore had nothing to do but submit to the wrong, but I could not so easily bear the insulting strain of his epistle. I therefore took a sedan, not being able to walk to his house, but on my arrival there, I was informed he had again left town, and his domestics knew not whither he was gone.

In a few days after this transaction my messenger returned from G—— with an answer to my letter; it was a very concise one, and intimated that Mr. Townly wondered at the assurance which had prompted me to address him, highly injured as he had been thro' my being so long imposed upon him, and enjoining me for the future to desist from all such attempts, as they would be wholly ineffectual.

Having now no further business to detain me in a country where I had suffered such a variety of

of injuries and distresses, I resolved immediately to begin my journey, and accordingly (after turning my bills into specie) I threw myself into a post-carriage, and set off for Dover.

My reliance on his integrity had prevented me from obtaining a second trial of the security of the law holds necessary in such cases. I therefore had nothing to do but submit to the wrong, but I could not help being the more sensible of his error. I therefore took a stage, not being able to walk to his house, but on my arrival there, I was informed he had again left town, and his domestics knew not whither he was gone.

In a few days after this transaction was over, I returned home, and was met by a letter from Mr. Towry, which was a very polite one, and intimated that Mr. Towry wondered at the assistance which had prompted me to advise him, highly injured as he had been by a long impudent imposture upon him, and expressing his regret for the future to be withheld from all such attempts, as they would be wholly ineffectual.

Having now no further business to detain me in a country where I had suffered such a variety of